

Kalamazoo

KalamazooParent.com -- Free -- APRIL 2012

# PARENT

Where Southwest Michigan Looks for Family Fun!

Serving  
Kalamazoo &  
Battle Creek

2012  
Camp  
Guide

Little Chefs,  
Big Benefits:  
Cooking with  
Children

CSA's:  
A Great Choice for  
Eating Local



# Editor's Letter

Wow. The weather has just been beautiful. The trees are budding, flowers are blooming and I have heard rumors that even a few children have ventured into wading pools and lakes! I have to keep reminding myself that this isn't even spring yet. It really makes me wonder what April and May truly hold for us, more unseasonably warm temperatures or the return of ice and snow? Either way, future months of March will be compared to how awesome the weather was in Michigan in March 2012.

If you are looking for an idea of places to explore this spring, how about the **Kellogg Bird Sanctuary** (page 16)? Make a day of it and also visit the Kellogg Forest, Dairy Farm and more. There are also many places offering camps or extra activities during spring break. The Events Calendar starts on page 10.



I love to spend time with my children in the kitchen. **Little Chefs, Big Benefits** (Page 4) includes an age appropriate kitchen activities chart if you need some ideas how your little ones can help you in the kitchen. My kids love to help me make just about anything, but especially cookies. I think it is because there is something for each of them to help with, but they also love tasting the finished product. This month's **Family Food** column (page 6) has a recipe for pretzels that is perfect for kids of all ages to help make.

I'm off to bake some cookies on this lovely spring evening.

*Vicki Girard*  
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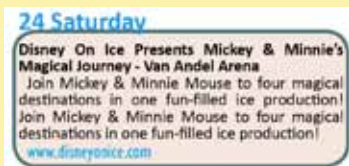
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## ENHANCED EVENT CALENDAR LISTING

**Kalamazoo Parent Magazine** is happy to announce two new optional enhancements to our **Event Calendar** listings!

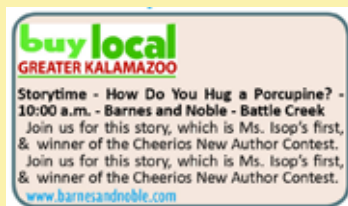
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Kalamazoo

# PARENT

Where Southwest Michigan Looks for Family Fun!

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Visit [www.KalamazooParent.com](http://www.KalamazooParent.com) for a complete listing of events and activities in the Kalamazoo & Battle Creek areas.

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Dave Melges

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Studio - Lakeview Square Mall"



# Little Chefs, Big Benefits: Cooking with Children

By Sarah Koepp Lindsey

neither you nor your kids are ravenous, the experience will be more pleasant.

## Prepare:

Set up a working station for your tiny helpers, or even bring a sturdy stool or chair (that they can safely balance on) so they can reach the counter. Make sure to remove any potentially dangerous items from their reach, such as cooking shears and knives. Read the recipe with your child, and then set out the necessary mixing bowls, spoons, and ingredients.

## Communicate:

Explain to your little ones the importance of staying away from a hot stove. One quick slip in this area could be hazardous to your child's health, such as third-degree burns resulting from a pot of boiling water. For this reason, it's essential that he understand this rule is set in stone.

## Supervise:

Never leave your child unattended in the kitchen; your supervision is necessary at all times. It's especially important to teach your kids the importance of following steps to ensure food safety. Keep raw and cooked foods separate. Don't allow them to sample cookie dough or anything else containing raw eggs. Wipe up spills as they happen. If any taste testing occurs, be sure to place the licked spoon in the sink instead of back in the bowl.

## Reminder for Parents:

As you know, little people tend to be messy, and cooking with them is no exception. Patience is a requirement when cooking with children. While the cooking process becomes messier and longer when it involves kids, it provides you with the opportunity to share a fun learning experience with your little ones. So try to relax and enjoy some quality time with your child...even if it is in the kitchen.

Having taken these steps, you are ready to begin. Check the chart for age-appropriate tasks to assign to your children, and start having some fun! Bon Appétit!



If you're looking for a great learning opportunity for your children, step no further than your kitchen. It's the perfect setting for kids to learn about nutrition, math, science, as well as to develop their arm and hand muscles and reading skills. Spending time together in the kitchen can be fun for the whole family and is instrumental in forming healthy eating habits. Here are some tips to keep the experience fun, educational, and safe.

## Plan:

A little planning goes a long way when cooking with your children. Mixing in a tiny chef (or two or three) won't add too much time to your regular routine if you plan your menu ahead of time, buy all the necessary ingredients, and keep your recipes handy. In fact, if you dare, it can be worthwhile to let your kids take an active role in the meal planning and grocery shopping process because they will be more willing to try new foods if they have a hand in choosing them.

## Clean:

The first rule when preparing to cook is: Wash your hands. This rule goes for big and small chefs alike. Anyone with long hair should fasten it back in a ponytail, and sleeves should be rolled up. By taking measures to keep things sanitary, you greatly reduce the chances of food-borne illness. Your kids will find a clean working environment more conducive to creativity in the kitchen.

## Eat:

A light pre-dinner snack can take the edge off hunger and help create a more relaxed atmosphere. So go ahead and pull out some carrot sticks, string cheese, or apple slices. If





## Age-appropriate Kitchen Activities Chart

When cooking with children, it's important to keep their physical limitations in mind so that neither they nor you become frustrated or overwhelmed. Use the following guidelines for your tiny chef's cooking tasks, but base your decisions on each individual child's abilities.

### 2-year-olds

- Wash fruits and vegetables
- Tear lettuce
- Break cauliflower, broccoli, and asparagus spears
- Stir ingredients in mixing bowl (with your assistance)
- Carry napkins and spoons to table
- Dip foods
- Wipe table and counter (Although you will probably want to do it again when your little one is not looking).

### 3-year-olds

- Everything in the previous list.
- Pour (already measured) ingredients
- Mix ingredients
- Knead dough
- Spread butter or other spreads
- Throw away trash
- Knead dough
- Press cookie cutters

### 4-year-olds

- Everything in the previous lists
- Set the table
- Cut herbs with child scissors
- Mash foods
- Peel fruits, vegetables, or hard-boiled eggs
- Juice citrus fruits
- Cut soft foods with a plastic knife

### 5-year-olds

- Everything in the previous lists
- Clear the table after meals
- Crack eggs
- Measure ingredients
- Use eggbeater



# School Lunch

By Bonnie Jean Feldkamp

I usually pack my kids' lunch each day for school, but I must admit that there are some early mornings when a lunch-packing project seems daunting. Those are the days that I lazily declare, "You're buying today."

I keep a few bucks in the school lunch account just for such occasions. Then it happened one day, it was bound to, when I uttered the words, "you're buying today," the middle-schooler said, "There's no money left in the account. I've already bought lunch twice this week!"

Could that be true? What was she implying? Was my Supermom card being revoked? I turned the blame back to her, "What are you buying with that money, a steak dinner?"

"I get the soy milk like you said mom, it's \$1.25." This argument was of course happening at the very last second, through the open screen door with me dressed in my house robe and woolen knee socks. The bus gasped and squeaked to its labored stop and the teenager tried denying us as family while climbing on the bus.

"Just charge it today and I'll pay them pack tomorrow." I shout at the middle-schooler. Do the schools even let you charge lunch, I wondered? They certainly wouldn't just make her go without, would they? Maybe they'd hand her a four-page application from the credit union. It's not like JC Penny where they run the application through while you wait, but she's 11 and likes her food so I hopped they would just feed her and then charge me later. I pushed her towards the bus thinking the neighborhood knows all too well what I look like at 7 a.m. First, a foot-chase on a forgotten garbage day, and now this!

When the middle-schooler got off of the bus at 3:10 my first question was, "How did lunch go?" I must inform you that I was properly dressed by this time.

"I found .75 cents so I just got a bag of Cheetos." She replied.

"What?" I gasped.

"I was fine, Mom." She looked at me wide-eyed, already annoyed.

"So, you didn't eat lunch? Why didn't you just charge it like I told you to? Would they not LET you?"

She rolled her eyes at my obvious over-reaction and let out a deep laborious sigh and explained. "I remembered I had my box tops today so I got a Slim Jim and a Rice Crispy treat for bringing those in. Then, I helped a girl in math with her fractions so my teacher gave me a pack of Smarties, in band I was able to hold my b-flat the longest so I got more candy for winning that contest. Then at lunch I bought some Cheetos... like I said."

"Oh," I stopped and thought for a minute, impressed with her real world survival skills. "So you're fine."

"Yes," she reiterated, "that's what I said."

"Why do they reward with food treats?" I shifted gears towards a whole new annoyance. "It's like glorified dog training! Whatever happened to fun pencils and stickers and such? I mean, I'm glad that you weren't hungry all day but good grief! No wonder we're a diabetic country with over weight kids... a Slim Jim and a Rice Crispy treat? Did they send you home with a blood pressure cuff or a glucose monitor at least?"

She didn't listen to my rant; she merely waited for the opportunity to interrupt me with, "Can I have a snack?" A day of simple carbs and a salt stick had not sustained her.

"Sure... why not?" I said, defeated. I vowed to live to fight another day. I would rise early, brew coffee, and pack healthy lunches.

**Bonnie Jean Feldkamp is the mother of two. She lives, parents and writes from her home in Portage.**



## FAMILY FOOD: HOMEMADE SOFT PRETZELS

by Elizabeth Spencer

I was raised by two wonderful parents, one of whom was a cook during the Vietnam War and has not cooked since and the other of whom is one of the world's all-time great cooks. My mother's pie crust alone can make grown men weep. When I gave birth to her second grandchild, my mom brought me her incomparable chicken-and-dumplings and pumpkin pie, and I very nearly decided to have another baby just on the hope she might make me that meal again.

Judging from pictorial evidence, I joined my mom in the kitchen at a young age and never really left. All my life, I have cooked and baked for the people I love: cookies for my family, cream cheese-stuffed crescent rolls for my choir friends the mornings we had early rehearsals before school, cheese manicotti for those same friends when they came to our house for dinner. My two daughters enthusiastically consume the fruits of my culinary labors, and when I am patient enough to heed the advice in this month's article "Little Chefs, Big Benefits" —"try to relax and enjoy some quality time with your child... even if it is in the kitchen"—my girls also like helping me cook. I don't think they've inherited my innate love for cooking, but on the other hand, they love things I abhor (gym class comes to mind). Since I think everyone can learn to cook whether or not they love to cook, my ongoing goal is to teach my daughters at least a few basic recipes so they, too, can feed and nurture the people they love.



The author, in training on her mom's pie crust recipe

This month's recipe for **Homemade Soft Pretzels** offers tasks for little hands at every turn: measuring, stirring, kneading, rolling, and shaping. Many recipes for homemade pretzels instruct cooks to dip the dough into a baking soda-water bath to achieve that trademark pretzel shine. My finished pretzels get their finish from a more



The Spencer sisters, rolling out pretzels

child-friendly (and easier) egg glaze. Have your kids wash their hands, roll up their sleeves, and then roll out some pretzels. As for me, I think I'll call my mom and see if I can finagle another meal of chicken-and-dumplings and pumpkin pie out of her.

*When she is not writing or volunteering at church and school, Elizabeth Spencer spends most of her time in the kitchen of her farmhouse just south of Battle Creek, cooking for her husband and two daughters.*

### Homemade Soft Pretzels

- 2 packets active dry yeast
- 1 ½ cups warm (not hot) water
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup white whole-wheat flour (preferably King Arthur brand)
- 3 cups all-purpose white flour
- 1 egg, beaten
- Salt for sprinkling tops of pretzels, optional
- Nonstick cooking spray

Preheat oven to 425°. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper or coat with nonstick cooking spray. In a large bowl, dissolve the yeast in the warm water. If you have a candy or instant-read thermometer, you can check the temperature of the water before you use it: it should be between 100° and 110° degrees. **If your water is too hot, it will kill your yeast.** This is not good. Let the water/yeast mixture stand for a few minutes to activate. After about 5 minutes, check the mixture; it should be foamy and bubbly on the surface. If it isn't, throw it out and start over, being certain your water is warm but not hot. If your yeast mixture does not look "lively," your resulting pretzels will have the texture of hockey pucks...again, not good.

Once your yeast/water mixture is ready, stir in the sugar and salt, then gradually mix in the flours. The mixture will become very stiff and hard to stir (this is where your kids' muscles come in!). Once the flours are incorporated, turn the mixture out onto a lightly floured work surface, and knead the dough vigorously for about 10 minutes, until smooth and elastic.

Divide the dough into 16 portions and roll each into a rope on the counter. Form into a pretzel shape (or any other shape you like...snails and letters are popular at our house) and place on the prepared cookie sheets. Using a pastry brush, basting brush, or (clean!) paint brush, coat the top of each pretzel with some of the beaten egg. Sprinkle with salt if desired. Bake the pretzels at 425° for 12 to 15 minutes, or until golden brown. Serve warm (at our house, we like them dipped in mustard or pizza sauce). Makes 16 pretzels.





## CSA: A GREAT CHOICE FOR EATING LOCAL



By April Endres

You may have heard the term CSA in discussions about supporting local farms and eating fresh, whole foods. CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture, which is basically a share or membership that a family buys directly through a farm, then receives a weekly portion of the produce that is harvested. CSAs have grown in popularity, and there are now many local farms offering memberships. Buying a share is also a great way to reduce your carbon footprint by avoiding food that's traveled hundreds if not thousands of miles to get to you. In addition, CSAs save money. While most programs require at least a 50% down payment at the beginning of the growing season, if not payment in full, generally the cost is less than you'd spend on grocery store produce.

Choosing the right CSA is fairly simple, but there are a few tips to help you choose the one that's right for your family and ensure you get the most out of your share.

- **Consider the season and commitment.** Most CSAs have similar growing seasons, running from early June through October. However, some offer extended seasons and shorter 8 week summer seasons, making it easy for you to choose the commitment that's right for you. Some farms ask members to work a certain number of hours on the farm, so knowing what the requirements are will help you plan accordingly.
- **Find out what type of produce is generally offered.** It's fun to get new and interesting vegetables, but if you have a family of picky eaters, you may opt for a farm with more offerings closer to their tastes. Some farms allow their customers to select the food they'd like in their weekly box, but most offer standard produce from that week's harvest, and generally you'll get a wide variety of vegetables. Keep in mind that often there will not be much fruit in the weekly box, so talking with the farmer ahead of time to determine the type of produce you can expect will help you make an informed choice and know what to plan to pick up elsewhere.

- **Get an idea of how much food you'll be receiving each week.** Often CSAs offer shares meant for a family of four, but if you're light eaters, you may not use all the produce in a week. Splitting your CSA share with a neighbor or friend can be an ideal way to get the right amount of food for your family and share in the cost.
- **Get a seasonal cookbook.** You may be getting new and different vegetables than you may normally eat, so it can be helpful to find a good seasonal cookbook to learn about cooking with things like garlic scapes and kohlrabi. Many farms provide recipes with their weekly produce boxes, and sometimes even offer cooking demonstrations. Trying new recipes is a fun way to involve children in using the CSA offerings.
- **Determine how the farm handles food pick-ups.** Many have times available to pick up your produce at a local farmer's market, or at the farm directly. Since you'll be picking up your box weekly, finding an ideal location with times that fit your schedule will make it more convenient and easy to get your food. If you're going to be out of town or on vacation, ask a friend or neighbor to pick up the produce for you so it doesn't go to waste.
- **Ask the farmer questions.** It's a good idea to find out how the food is grown, and what methods are used for pest control. It's also helpful to ask for a couple references to find out how others like the way the CSA operates.

There are several local farms that offer CSA shares. The website [www.localharvest.org/csa](http://www.localharvest.org/csa) has a search option available to find CSAs in your area. Once you select the program that's right for your family, you can feel good knowing you're supporting local agriculture and keeping your money in the community. Best of all, you'll know how your food is grown and exactly where it's coming from!

*April is the mother of two incredible girls from Portage.*

# Have you seen these great products?

by Vicki Girard

**Wuggle Pets Kit** - An activity kit of super cute baby animals that are very easy to make. Children simply add stuffing using the Fun Fill Factory, sprinkle in a little magic dust, put in a personality charm and watch as it grows. These were very easy to make



and the 4 & 5 year old that made them thought they were awesome and are still talking about their **Wuggle Pets**. Each pet comes with a customizable birth certificate and a backpack clip. One of the girls clipped hers on her backpack and the other clipped hers to her coat zipper. Great rainy day activity! (AGES 4+)  
[www.wugglepets.com](http://www.wugglepets.com)

**BBF Doll** - The Best Friend Forever Doll is a totally customizable doll from the makers of the **My Twinn Doll**. My older daughter had **My Twinn Doll** and I am quite familiar with their high quality dolls. With the **BBF Doll** you go online and with a few clicks of your mouse, create a unique doll. You get to choose from a variety of face shapes, skin tones, eye shape and color and outfits. Extra choices include earrings, makeup and eye glasses, truly making

the doll as unique as the creator would like. Creating the doll online was extremely easy and you can mix and match and start over as many times as you choose. The doll arrived on time in a carefully packaged box and looks amazing. (ages 5 – 12)  
[www.mybffdoll.com](http://www.mybffdoll.com)



**BubbleBum** - Here is one of those products that you wonder, "Why didn't I think of that?" **BubbleBum** is an inflatable booster seat that makes traveling easier than ever and is now available at [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) and [www.babiesrus.com](http://www.babiesrus.com). This inflates easily and is lightweight. It is perfect to pack and take with you while flying so that you have a booster seat when you arrive at your destination.



Great to have on hand if you plan on taking a taxi or in case you have an extra child you are

bringing home from soccer practice. It is perfect when I need an extra booster seat in the back seat of my van between my traditional car seat and booster seat. The **HIS (Insurance Institute of Highway Safety)** recently announced BubbleBum as one of the best booster seats for safety. (ages 4 – 11, weight 40 – 80 pounds and height up to 4'9")  
[www.bubblebum.us](http://www.bubblebum.us)

**Raskullz** – In the event of an accident, did you know that the risk of brain injury is reduced by 88% when wearing a proper helmet? These molded 3D safety helmets from **Raskullz** will be the talk of the neighborhood this spring and summer.

What a great way to keep your child safe with the shock absorbing EPS inner shell and for them to have fun wearing it all at the same time. They have helmets in multiple sizes for boys and girls in ladybugs, kitty cats, tigers, Mohawks and more. Also available in backpacks, luggage and bikes!  
[www.raskullz.com](http://www.raskullz.com)



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# MOMS WANT THE GIFT OF A HEALTHY FAMILY



By Jan Udlock

All moms want their growing families to be as healthy as possible, and regular physical exercise and good nutrition are vital. Does your family's health need a slight tune up? Here are some ideas to discuss.

## Annual Well Child Check

Attend your child's well child check with a list of questions. Since your child's pediatrician has so many recommendations to discuss, don't assume she will remember everything. "Parents need to know that docs can't get everything every time so any concern you have or anticipatory guidance you want, you should not hesitate to ask for," says Deborah Gilboa, MD.

During the visit, let your child answer as many of the doctor's questions as possible. Bite your tongue if you



have to and don't be afraid of silence. It's easy to want to speak for your child, but allowing him to think about the question and answer it promotes self confidence in your child and rapport with the doctor. Also, your child's answer may be different than what you expect. You can fill in any missing information if necessary.

Talk to your doctor about any concerns you have about your child even if you're uncomfortable. If your child won't take medicines or is leaving the house without your permission, etc. "Without this information the doc cannot help you help your child. The doctor may be aware of resources in your community that you are not," says Gilboa.

Check to see if you can email health concerns to your doctor's office before the visit. An email can be an opportunity to present to the doctor about an issue

you don't want to address in front of the child. With some children, a doctor can address harder subjects with your child like overweight or stress issues. Older children view doctor advice differently than their parents input.

## Keep Talking

According to Dr. Lisa Santora, CMO for the Beach Cities Health District, substance abuse is an overlooked health concern or one that is not addressed in the home. Kids are exposed to smoking and alcohol use in the home, on television or out in public. "Yet parents often do not feel comfortable or prepared to talk to their children about the risks of these behaviors," says Santora. Yet, the average age for a child to try alcohol is eleven years old.

If you haven't started talking about this with your children, start by asking questions when you see someone smoking or drinking on television. Ask your kids about what they know and why is it unhealthy? Keep calm and a non-judgmental tone to your voice. Provide your children a safe haven to talk to you and ask any questions that they may have.

## Exercise

The benefits of daily exercise include increased relaxation, better sleep and a more positive mood for starters.

Make an exercise plan and include the entire family.



A simple chart can help kids set realistic goals and lets their excitement grow as they see progress.

If the weather is poor, swimming or exercise DVDs help kids stay moving. Also check with your local parks and recreation department for more exercise options.

## Screen Time

Sometimes it's hard to face the fact that your child is in front of a screen too much because you are also glued to the television or computer. Talk with your child about what he thinks is a fair amount of time for electronic games and make a plan to keep each other accountable. "In short practice moderation (no more than two hours for all electronics total per day not counting homework) and monitor child's use of any gaming or internet connected system," says Gilboa. Remind your children there is nothing wrong with electronic games but that everyone needs to have balance in all areas of their lives.

## Food Choices

Kids are smart and they know we all need to get more fruits and vegetables. If your family's goal is to reduce sugary drinks or snacks, provide fruit to munch on and place veggies and a yummy dip on the table for after school snacks. If you want your family to cut down on processed food snacks, don't bring the snack into the house.



Studies have repeatedly shown that meatless dishes are a healthy choice. A meatless dish once a week will not only help reach health goals, but can be easy on the family budget.

At non-meal times, challenge your kids to point out food commercials and discuss whether they showcase healthy or unhealthy food choices.

Make it a family affair to become healthier. Remember change is slow so take small steps and encourage your kids. Maybe they will be the ones to encourage you to get off the couch to go for a walk.

# Event Calendar

## Kalamazoo Parent's April Event Calendar



Visit [www.kalamazooparent.com](http://www.kalamazooparent.com) for more information on events and activities in the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek areas.

*Dates and times of events can change after this magazine goes to press. Please call the venue to confirm the event details. No part of this calendar may be reproduced in print or web format without written permission from Kalamazoo Parent.*

### 1 Sunday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Yogi Bear Free Kids Movie - 9:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**  
FREE SPRING MOVIES are back!!!  
[www.gqti.com/freemovies.aspx](http://www.gqti.com/freemovies.aspx)

**Open House: Sustaining the Vision - 1:00 p.m. W.K. Kellogg Manor House**  
Celebrate the legacy of W.K. Kellogg and learn about the manor's preservation  
[www.kbs.msu.edu/](http://www.kbs.msu.edu/)

**Discover the Beech Maple Trail - 2:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
Explore seasonal changes in habitats  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Rollerworld Family Matinee - 2:00 p.m.**  
Open skating geared for families with children  
[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

### 2 Monday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**  
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Opening Day: Children's Museum - 8:00 a.m. - Leila Arboretum & Children's Garden**  
[www.lasgarden.org/index.htm](http://www.lasgarden.org/index.htm)

**Spring Break Day Camp - 8:00 a.m. - Sherman Lake YMCA**  
Swimming, rock wall, art projects, s'mores, sing songs, play games, archery and more!  
[www.shermanlakeymca.org](http://www.shermanlakeymca.org)

**Spring Break Day Camp - 9:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Civic Theater**  
Students will work together to gain and hone their musical theatre skills  
[www.kazoocivic.com](http://www.kazoocivic.com)

**Discovering the Unnatural Trail - 10:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
**Family Storytimes - 10:00 a.m.- KPL Central Library**  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Monday Morning Storytime - 10:00 a.m. - Barnes & Noble Kalamazoo**  
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/>

**Spring Break Hands-on Happenings - 1:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Valley Museum**  
A different exhibit each day will be a featured headliner.  
[kvm.kvcc.edu](http://kvm.kvcc.edu)

**Spring Fling Crafts - 1:00 p.m. - KPL - Eastwood Branch Library**  
Make a springtime craft project to take home.  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Binder Park Zoomobile - 2:00 p.m. KPL Oshtemo Branch Library**  
Get up close and personal with animals from the Binder Park Zoo  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Rollerworld Matinee - 2:00 p.m.**  
[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

### 3 Tuesday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**  
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Kalamazoo Indoor Flea & Farmers Market - 8:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Fairgrounds- Expo North**  
Flea market! Plus fresh produce, meat, eggs, maple syrup, honey and more!  
[www.kalamazooexpoctr.com/](http://www.kalamazooexpoctr.com/)

**Spring Break Day Camp - 8:00 a.m. - Sherman Lake YMCA**  
Swimming, rock wall, art projects, s'mores, sing songs, play games, archery and more!  
[www.shermanlakeymca.org](http://www.shermanlakeymca.org)

**Spring Break Day Camp - 9:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Civic Theater**

Students will work together to gain and hone their musical theatre skills  
[www.kazoocivic.com](http://www.kazoocivic.com)

**Spring Has Sprung Camp - 9:00 a.m. - Kid's N' Stuff Children's Museum**

Crafts, games, read stories, make yummy spring treats and even play in the museum  
[www.kidsnstuff.org/](http://www.kidsnstuff.org/)

**Home School Discovery Day - 10:00 a.m. - Air Zoo**

Students will carve their very own propeller.  
[www.airzoo.org](http://www.airzoo.org)

**Piggy Bunny - 10:00 a.m. Barnes and Noble Battle Creek**

Join us for this story about Liam the piglet.  
[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**Preschool Story-time - 10:00 a.m. - KPL Central Library**

Stories, crafts, fingerplays, and other fun activities for the 3½-5 year old.  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**A Beaver's Tale - 1:00 p.m. Kalamazoo Nature Center**

Examine beaver fur and watch a video  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Preschool Pals Storytime - 1:00 p.m. - Parchment Community Library**

Stories, songs, fingerplays  
[www.parchmentlibrary.org](http://www.parchmentlibrary.org)

**ReCraft - 1:00 p.m. KPL Oshtemo Branch Library**

Turn everyday items into works of art.  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Spring Break Hands-on Happenings - 1:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Valley Museum**

A different exhibit each day will be a featured headliner.  
[kvm.kvcc.edu](http://kvm.kvcc.edu)

**Spring Fling Crafts - 1:00 p.m. - KPL - Eastwood Branch Library**

Make a springtime craft project to take home.  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Family Story-time - 2:00 p.m. - KPL - Washington Square Branch Library**

Stories, songs, finger plays, and fun activities  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Games at Powell - 2:00 p.m. -KPL - Alma Powell Branch Library**

Video and board game fun for ages 5-11.  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Rollerworld Matinee - 2:00 p.m.**  
[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

**Spring Break Fun! - 2:00 p.m. - Willard Library**

Lots of board games and card games  
[www.willard.lib.mi.us](http://www.willard.lib.mi.us)

**Capoeira: Cordao De Ouro - 6:00 p.m. -KPL - Alma Powell Branch Library**

An art-form that combines elements of martial arts, acrobatics, dance, music, and song  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

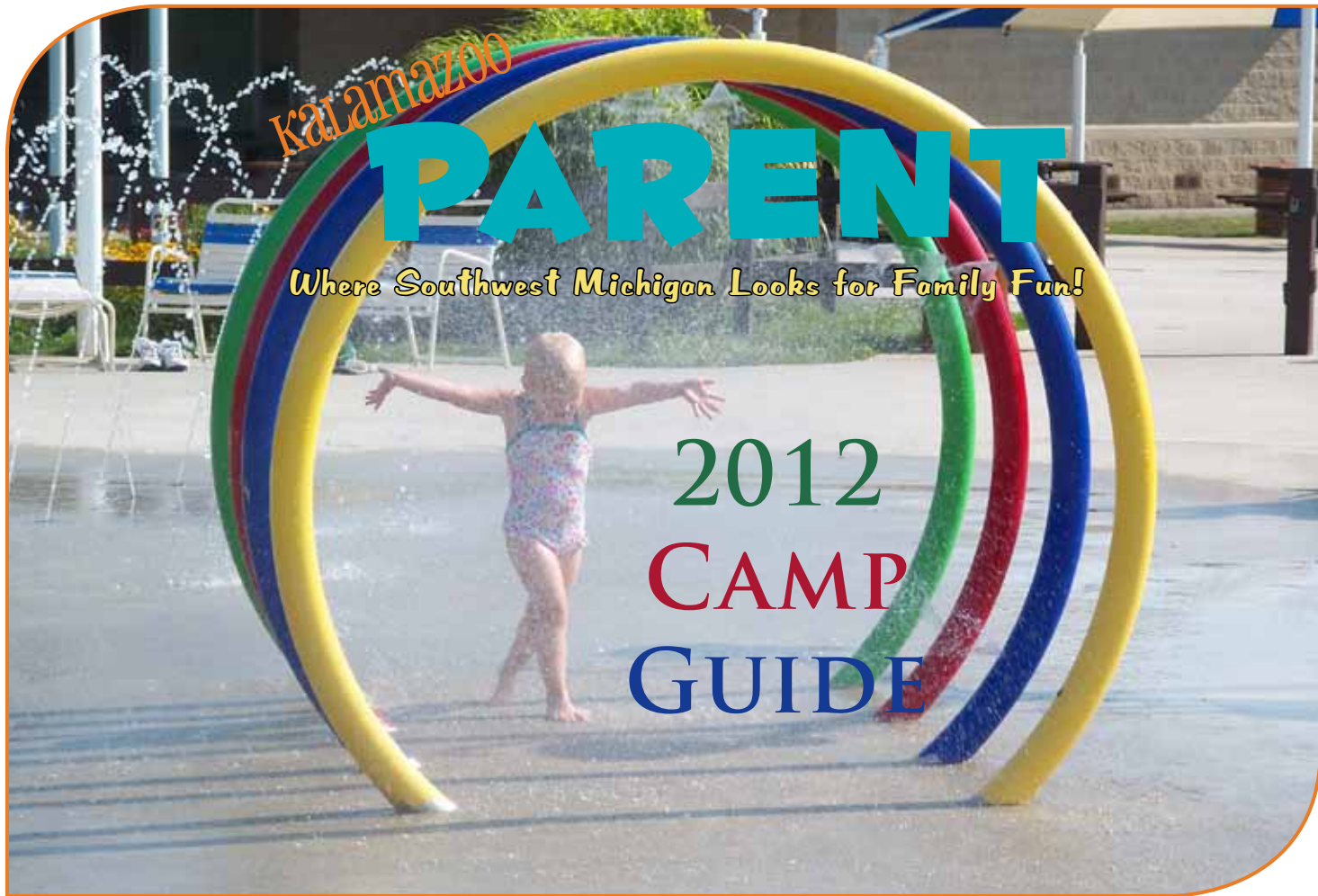
**Open Skate - 6:00 p.m. - Rollerworld**  
[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

### 4 Wednesday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)





### AIR ZOO

The Air Zoo's summer camp experiences take kids on a weeklong adventure of science exploration. Our professional educators will share the pure joy of flight with campers through hands-on activities and interactive experiments. Campers get an in-depth look at the Air Zoo, including the 4D theater, full-motion flight simulators and much more! Camps are designed for children ages 4-17. To register or for more information, please contact our Group and Event Coordinators at 269.350.2848 or visit:

[www.airzoo.org](http://www.airzoo.org)

See Ad Pg 13

**campus**  
Summer Program *Kids*  
June 11 through August 31  
Sign up by week or for the entire summer  
WMU Children's Place Learning Center  
387-2277  
**W**  
[www.wmich.edu/childcare](http://www.wmich.edu/childcare)  
For children who have completed kindergarten, up through age 9

**the Y** YMCA  
**LET THE GAMES BEGIN**  
1/2 DAY SPORTS CAMPS & FULL DAY CAMPS  
DON'T WAIT TO GET THE FUN STARTED... REGISTER TODAY!  
YMCA OF GREATER KALAMAZOO  
[WWW.KZOOYMCA.ORG](http://WWW.KZOOYMCA.ORG)

### BINDER PARK ZOO

An African adventure awaits! Discover spectacular views of wild animals from elevated boardwalks. Get nose-to-nose with one of the largest giraffe herds in the country as you explore Wild Africa and hand feed a giraffe! The Zoo also offers summer camps and family overnights. Opens April 20! For more information visit [www.binderparkzoo.org](http://www.binderparkzoo.org) or call (269) 979-1351.

## GIRL SCOUTS HEART OF MICHIGAN

Girl Scout camp offers a variety of incredible experiences where girls find fun and friendship in beautiful natural surroundings. Best of all, girls love it! It's a safe place to make new friends, gain practical life skills, develop critical thinking ability, practice team building and more! Join us this summer! Visit [www.girlscoutcamp.org](http://www.girlscoutcamp.org) or call (800) 497-2688. Camp is open to ALL girls entering grades K-12. Family programs and camp site rentals available too!

See Ad Pg 12

## KALAMAZOO NATURE CENTER

Get ready to walk on the wild side this summer at KNCCamp! Campers enjoy a different theme each week with age-appropriate activities for 3-17 years. Visit the Camp Open House Sunday, June 3 from 1-3 pm. Visit [www.KNCCamp.org](http://www.KNCCamp.org) for a full description of camps. Register online and check out camp discounts – camps fill quickly! Early online registration ends April 15. KNC Camp, 7000 North Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI. (269) 381-1574.

See Ad Pg 14

## MAD SCIENCE OF GREATER KALAMAZOO

Mad Science holds programs in over 80 schools in the Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, and Lansing areas. Mad Science continues to grow with summer camps, special events and birthday parties. Recently Mad Science opened a new lab in Kalamazoo, which has two rooms used for birthday parties, camps, and fieldtrips. All Mad Science programs are hands on, age appropriate sessions that fuels your child's curiosity. Programs for pre-k to 5th grade.

[www.madscience.org/kalamazoo](http://www.madscience.org/kalamazoo)

See Ad Pg 14

## SHERMAN LAKE YMCA CAMP

Sherman Lake YMCA Camp where campers learn how to be responsible, resourceful, work in groups, and make decisions that will help them grow as individuals –while having fun in the outdoors. Day Camp and Resident Camp for ages 4-16. Many specialty camps, ie: climbing, water sports, horse programs, art, dance, theatre, Gilmore Piano camp, golf, sports and more! Want to join in the fun? Family Camp: July 4<sup>th</sup> or Labor Day. Call 269-731-3000 or

[www.shermanlakeymca.org](http://www.shermanlakeymca.org)

See Ad Pg 13

AFFORDABLE ADVENTURES!



Resident Camp!



Day Camp!

# Overnight and day camps open to all girls entering grades K-12

[www.girlscoutcamp.org](http://www.girlscoutcamp.org)  
 (800) 497-2688



Family Camp and Troop Camp too!

## Girl Scout Camp 2012











## KalamazooParent.com/campdirectory.php

Looking for a west Michigan camp for your child? We have links to Traditional Day & Overnight Camps, Sports Camps, Performing Arts Camps and Science & Nature Camps!

### WMU CHILDREN'S PLACE LEARNING CENTER

Western Michigan University Children's Place Learning Center offers a Campus Kids school-age summer program for children who have completed kindergarten up through age 9. Weekly programs feature themes with special interest topics that run from June 11 to August 31, 2012. Children can be enrolled for the entire summer, or for just one or two weeks. Visit [www.wmich.edu/childcare/campuskids.html](http://www.wmich.edu/childcare/campuskids.html) for more program information and how to register.

See Ad Pg 11

### YMCA OF GREATER KALAMAZOO

At the Y we not only provide a world of fun, friends and adventures for your child, we focus on values and character development. Caring, honesty, respect and responsibility are parts of everyday camp. Our camps meet State of Michigan licensing requirements and focus on health, safety and program quality. We offer camps for children ages 3-16 with age appropriate activities and fun. Camps for the preschool and school-age are set up with weekly theme, swimming and field trips. Summer camps are offered at the Maple and Portage Branches. For information on Maple camps (ages 3-16) call Rebecca at 324-9625; for Portage camp (ages post K-9) or go to our website.

[www.kzooymca.org](http://www.kzooymca.org)

See Ad Pg 11

**AIR ZOO**  
Like No Place Else On Earth!

**Summer Camps at the Air Zoo**

Enjoy a week full of science exploration during the Air Zoo's summer camp experiences, designed for kids ages 4-17.

Visit [airzoo.org](http://airzoo.org) to learn more about our camps!

SkySpace Kids Club and supporting members will receive 10% off all summer camps.

6151 Portage Road ■ I-94 - Exit 7B ■ Kalamazoo ■ 269.382.6555

Smithsonian Institution Affiliations Program

**REGISTER NOW!**  
[www.shermanlakeymca.org](http://www.shermanlakeymca.org)

**CREATING COURAGE CONFIDENCE CHARACTER**

FREE FAMILY PREVIEW SUMMER CAMP FUN FROM 2 - 4PM : 3/18, 4/28, and 5/20

SHERMAN LAKE YMCA  
12  
summer camp 2012





**SPARKING IMAGINATIVE LEARNING AFTER SCHOOL!**

*Are you looking for something different this summer for your kids?*

**Then Mad Science Summer Camps are for you!**

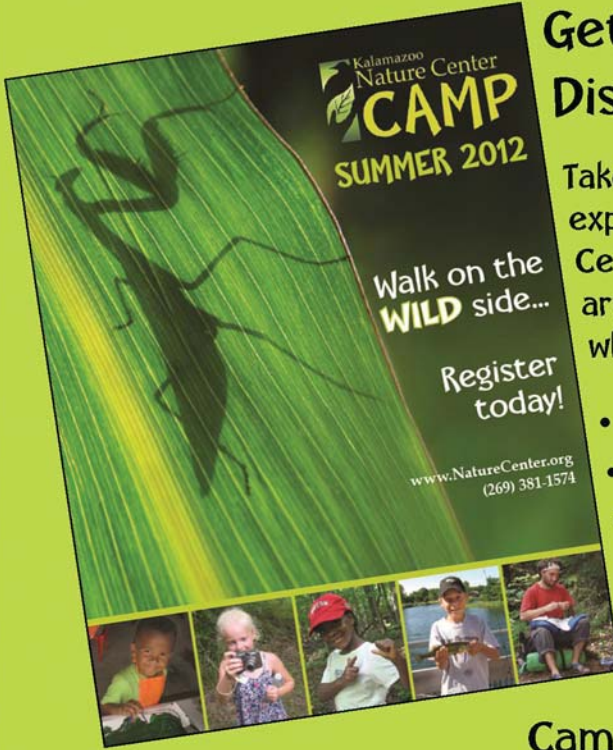
This years camps include Mythbusters, Rockin' Rockets, Mad Science All Stars, At the Scene of the Crime, and our preschool camp Little Scientist!

**269-978-8543**  
[www.madscience.org/kalamazoo](http://www.madscience.org/kalamazoo)

Register for camps on-line during the month of March and get an early bird discount!


*MAD SCIENCE ALSO OFFERS EXCITING: BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT OUR NEW LAB*





**Get Ready for a Summer of Discovery & Fun at KNC Camp!**

Take a walk on the wild side this summer as you explore the coolest parts of the Kalamazoo Nature Center. See wildlife up close, play games, create art, and meet new friends and cool counselors who know how to have fun outside!

- My First Nature Camp for 3-Year-Olds
- Wild Child Day Camps and Campouts
- River Trek & Backpack Adventure
- Teen Backcountry Adventure
- Farm Camps and Grow & LEARN! 
- Family Campout-August 25-26

Camp Open House Sunday, June 3, 1-3 pm

Visit [www.KNCCamp.org](http://www.KNCCamp.org) for Camp descriptions and to register

**Kalamazoo Indoor Flea & Farmers Market - 8:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Fairgrounds- Expo North**

Flea market! Plus fresh produce, meat, eggs, maple syrup, honey and more!

[www.kalamazooexpo.com/](http://www.kalamazooexpo.com/)

**Spring Break Day Camp - 8:00 a.m. - Sherman Lake YMCA**

Swimming, rock wall, art projects, s'mores, sing songs, play games, archery and more!

[www.shermanlakeymca.org](http://www.shermanlakeymca.org)

**Spring Break Day Camp - 9:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Civic Theater**

Students will work together to gain and hone their musical theatre skills

[www.kazoocivic.com](http://www.kazoocivic.com)

**Wacky Science Camp - 9:00 a.m. - Kids N' Stuff Children's Museum**

Do some interesting science experiments, play games, make a snack and play in the museum.

[www.kidsnstuff.org](http://www.kidsnstuff.org)

**Air Zoo Full-day Spring Break Camp - 9:30 a.m.**

Campers will build and launch rockets

[www.airzoo.org](http://www.airzoo.org)

**Kalamazoo Playgroup - 9:30 a.m. - Zion Lutheran Church**

Mother-to-mother setting, please bring your baby.

[www.lalecheleague.org](http://www.lalecheleague.org)

**Piggy Bunny - 10:00 a.m. Barnes and Noble Battle Creek**

Join us for this story about Liam the piglet.

[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**Spring Break Storytime and Cupcake Decorating - 10:00 a.m. - Willard Library**

[www.willard.lib.mi.us](http://www.willard.lib.mi.us)

**Toddler Talk - 10:00 a.m. - KPL Oshtemo Branch Library**

Toddlers play while adults share joys and challenges of the 1-3 year old.

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Preschool Pals Storytime - 10:15 a.m. - Parchment Community Library**

Stories, songs, fingerplays

[www.parchmentlibrary.org](http://www.parchmentlibrary.org)

**Family Story-time - 10:30 a.m. KPL Alma Powell Branch Library**

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Western Dance Project - 11:00 a.m. - KPL Central Library**

Modern dance performance by WMU students

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Air Zoo Half-day Spring Break Camp - 1:00 p.m.**

Campers will build and launch rockets

[www.airzoo.org](http://www.airzoo.org)

**Spring Break Hands-on Happenings - 1:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Valley Museum**

A different exhibit each day will be a featured headliner.

[kvm.kvcc.edu](http://kvm.kvcc.edu)

**Spring Fling Crafts - 1:00 p.m. - KPL - Eastwood Branch Library**

Make a springtime craft project to take home.

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Wednesday Afternoon Storytime - 1:00 p.m. - Barnes & Noble - Kalamazoo**

[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**KALAMAZOO PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

**Dr. Ryan Basler**  
Pediatric Dentist

1900 Whites Rd  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

(269) 343-5386  
Fax: (269) 343-0913  
kzoopd@gmail.com

**Accepting New Patients 1-1 2 years old**

**X-men of the Wild - 1:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**

Explore the super powers of birds of prey and find out how they survive in the wild.

[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Baby Talk - 1:30 p.m. - KPL - Oshtemo Branch Library**

Talk about care of babies up to 1 year with other parents and caregivers.

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Rollerworld Matinee - 2:00 p.m.**

[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

**GLAMA Slow Jam - 7:00 p.m. - KPL - Central Library**

If you can play basic chords, join the Great Lakes Acoustic Music Association for a slow jam.

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

## 5 Thursday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked

[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Spring Break Day Camp - 8:00 a.m. - Sherman Lake YMCA**

Swimming, rock wall, art projects, s'mores, sing songs, play games, archery and more!

[www.shermanlakeymca.org](http://www.shermanlakeymca.org)

**Spring Break Day Camp - 9:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Civic Theater**

Students will work together to gain and hone their musical theatre skills

[www.kazoocivic.com](http://www.kazoocivic.com)

**Intro to Genealogy - 10:00 a.m. - KPL - Oshtemo Branch Library**

Start your Family Tree

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Family Story-time - 10:30 a.m. - KPL Eastwood Branch Library**

Stories, songs, finger plays, and fun activities

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**TODDLER TALES - 10:30 a.m. - Parchment Community Library**

[www.parchmentlibrary.org](http://www.parchmentlibrary.org)

**Borgess Farmers Market - 11:00 a.m. - Borgess Medical Center Courtyard**

[www.borgess.com](http://www.borgess.com)

**Spring Break Hands-on Happenings - 1:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Valley Museum**

A different exhibit each day will be a featured headliner.

[kvm.kvcc.edu](http://kvm.kvcc.edu)

**Spring Fling Crafts - 1:00 p.m. - KPL - Eastwood Branch Library**

Make a springtime craft project to take home.

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Family Movie Day - 2:00 p.m. - Willard Library**

Bring a snack and enjoy the movie HOP.

[www.willard.lib.mi.us/](http://www.willard.lib.mi.us/)

**Games at Powell - 2:00 p.m. -KPL - Alma Powell Branch Library**

Video and board game fun for ages 5-11.

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Plaster of Paris Handprint - 2:00 p.m. -Kids N' Stuff Children's Museum**

[www.kidsnstuff.org](http://www.kidsnstuff.org)

**Rollerworld Matinee - 2:00 p.m.**

[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

**Spring Discovery Walk - 2:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**

Discover what has sprung on our best spring trails

[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Game Central - 2:30 p.m. - KPL Central Library**

Bored during Spring Break? Play games in the comfort of the Teen Area!

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Museum Family Night - 5:00 p.m. - Kids N' Stuff Children's Museum**

[www.kidsnstuff.org/index.html](http://www.kidsnstuff.org/index.html)

**Skate on your Can - 6:00 p.m. - Rollerworld**

[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

**Thursday Evening Storytime - 6:00 p.m. - Barnes and Noble Kalamazoo**

[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**Birds of Prey - LIVE! - 6:30 p.m. - Kellogg Bird Sanctuary**

Birds of prey are amazing flying and hunting machines! See some up close!

[www.kbs.msu.edu/](http://www.kbs.msu.edu/)

## 6 Friday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**

Hop  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Spring Break Day Camp - 8:00 a.m. - Sherman Lake YMCA**

Swimming, rock wall, art projects, s'mores, sing songs, play games, archery and more!

[www.shermanlakeymca.org](http://www.shermanlakeymca.org)





WHERE TO GO FOR FAMILY FUN THIS MONTH!

by Vicki Girard

### Kellogg Bird Sanctuary

12685 East C Ave.  
Augusta, MI 49012  
(269) 671-2474

[www.kbs.msu.edu/visit/birdsanctuary](http://www.kbs.msu.edu/visit/birdsanctuary)

#### Admission:

- Adults - \$4.00
- Senior Citizens - \$3.00
- Children (2-12) - \$2.00

#### Hours of Operation:

Open Year Round  
November - April: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
May - October: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

The **Kellogg Bird Sanctuary** is located about 14 miles north of Kalamazoo and 10 miles west of



Battle Creek in Augusta, MI and was created by W.K. Kellogg in 1927 as a refuge for the Canada Goose, as well as other migrating birds. The 180 acre Sanctuary offers wildlife habitats including Trumpeter Swans, Canada Geese and a variety of ducks. There is a ¾ mile paved path that is both wheelchair and stroller friendly.



The **Kellogg Bird Sanctuary** offers courses and programs throughout the whole year including science camps during the summer for students in 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. There is FREE admission for Earth Day on Sunday, April 22, 2012.

This is a great location to get outdoors with the family. There is a large area to enjoy a picnic and plenty to explore including trying your luck at geo caching, a great family activity where you look for hidden items. Visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) for more information about geo caching or read our article from July of last year about geo caching in the Kalamazoo & Battle Creek area at:

[www.kalamazooparent.com/July\\_web.pdf](http://www.kalamazooparent.com/July_web.pdf)

**Air Zoo Full-day Spring Break Camp - 9:30 a.m.**  
Campers will build and launch rockets  
[www.airzoo.org](http://www.airzoo.org)

**ABC Activity Time - 10:00 a.m. - Portage District Library**  
This is a time for your child to practice skills that will help them get ready to read!  
[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**PaleoJoe's Digging Adventure - 10:30 a.m. - KPL - Eastwood Branch Library**  
Take a trip back in time with PaleoJoe, a paleontologist, author and storyteller  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Air Zoo Half-day Spring Break Camp - 1:00 p.m.**  
Campers will build and launch rockets  
[www.airzoo.org](http://www.airzoo.org)

**Extraordinary Eggs - 1:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
How many hummingbird eggs fit in a bottle cap? Do some "egg-speriments" to find out!  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Spring Break Hands-on Happenings - 1:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Valley Museum**  
A different exhibit each day will be a featured headliner.  
[kvm.kvcc.edu](http://kvm.kvcc.edu)

**Spring Fling Crafts - 1:00 p.m. - KPL - Eastwood Branch Library**  
Make a springtime craft project to take home.  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Rollerworld Matinee - 2:00 p.m.**  
[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

**Spring Fling Crafts - 2:00 p.m. - KPL - Alma Powell Branch Library**  
Make a springtime craft project to take home.  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Game Central - 2:30 p.m. - KPL Central Library**  
Bored during Spring Break? Play games in the comfort of the Teen Area!  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Art Hop - 5:00 p.m. - Downtown Kalamazoo**  
[www.kazooart.org](http://www.kazooart.org)

**Open Skate - 6:00 p.m. - Rollerworld**  
[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

## 7 Saturday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**  
Hop  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Free Kids Movie - 9:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**  
Legends of the Guardians  
[www.gqti.com](http://www.gqti.com)

**Kids Workshops - 9:00 a.m. - Home Depot**  
FREE hands-on workshops for children  
[www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com)

**Free Kids Movie - 10:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**  
Legends of the Guardians  
[www.gqti.com](http://www.gqti.com)

**Small Wonders: Fantastic Flowers - 10:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
Explore nature with your child! Interactive nature stations are set up to encourage learning  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)



**Easter Egg Hunt - 10:30 a.m. - Kellogg Academic Center**

[www.kbs.msu.edu](http://www.kbs.msu.edu)

**LEGO @ The Library - 10:30 a.m. - KPL Oshtemo Branch Library**

Build, create, race, inspire, and imagine

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Enjoy a Tale From Spot the Dog - 11:00 a.m. - Barnes & Noble - Kalamazoo**

Meet Spot the Dog during his special visit to our Storytime

[www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com)

**Creature Feature - 12:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**

See animals out from behind the glass!

[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Teen Fantasy-Adventure Author to Sign Books - 12:00 p.m. - Barnes & Noble - Kalamazoo**

[www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com)

**First Saturday for Families - 2:00 p.m. - KPL - Central Library**

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Open Skate - 2:00 p.m. - Rollerworld**

[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

**Rollerworld Matinee - 2:00 p.m.**

[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

**Open Skate - 5:00 p.m. - Rollerworld**

[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

**Super Saturday Night Open Skate - 7:00 p.m. - Rollerworld**

[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

## 8 Sunday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**

Hop

[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Free Kids Movie - 9:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**

Legends of the Guardians

[www.gqti.com](http://www.gqti.com)

**Free Kids Movie - 10:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**

Legends of the Guardians

[www.gqti.com](http://www.gqti.com)

**Easter Brunch - 11:00 a.m. - W.K. Kellogg Manor House**

Join us for a gourmet, multi-course meal

[www.kbs.msu.edu](http://www.kbs.msu.edu)

**Short Films for Kids - 11:15 a.m. - Kalamazoo Institute of Arts**

[www.kiarts.org](http://www.kiarts.org)

**Signs of Spring - 2:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**

Enjoy a relaxing hike in search of signs of spring.

[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Rollerworld Family Matinee - 2:00 p.m.**

Open skating geared for families with children

[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

## 9 Monday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**

Hop

[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Terrific Twos Story-time - 9:30 a.m. - Portage District Library**

Letters, sounds, new words and self expression through books, finger plays and movement

[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**Family Storytimes - 10 a.m. - KPL Central Library**

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Monday Morning Storytime - 10:00 a.m. - Barnes & Noble Kalamazoo**

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/>

**After School Party - 3:00 p.m. - Marshall District Library**

[www.marshalldistrictlibrary.org](http://www.marshalldistrictlibrary.org)

**Yoga: level I - 6:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**

A rejuvenating evening of Iyengar-based yoga

[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

## 10 Tuesday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**

Hop

[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Kalamazoo Indoor Flea & Farmers Market - 8:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Fairgrounds- Expo North**

Flea market! Plus fresh produce, meat, eggs, maple syrup, honey and more!

[www.kalamazooexpoctr.com/](http://www.kalamazooexpoctr.com/)

**Preschool Story-time - 10:00 a.m. - KPL - Central Library**

Stories, crafts, fingerplays, and other fun activities for the 3½-5 year old.

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Rabbit Ears Story-time - 10:00 a.m. - Barnes and Noble - Battle Creek**

[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**Small Wonders: Fantastic Flowers - 10:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**

Explore nature with your child! Interactive nature stations are set up to encourage learning

[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Preschool Story-time - 10:30 a.m. - Portage District Library**

Preschool age children will build language skills while listening to stories

[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**Preschool Pals Storytime - 1:00 p.m. - Parchment Community Library**

Stories, songs, fingerplays

[www.parchmentlibrary.org](http://www.parchmentlibrary.org)

**Family Story-time - 2:00 p.m. - KPL - Washington Square Branch Library**

Stories, songs, finger plays, and fun activities

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Book Voyagers for 1st - 3rd graders - 4:15 p.m. - Parchment Community Library**

[www.parchmentlibrary.org](http://www.parchmentlibrary.org)

**Open Skate - 6:00 p.m. - Rollerworld**

[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

**Pizza and Pages - 6:00 p.m. - KPL - Alma Powell Branch Library**

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Birds, Bees, Butterflies - 6:30 p.m. - KPL - Eastwood Branch Library**

Master gardener Barbara Johnston reveals which flowers attract birds, bees, and butterfly

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Meet the Costumed Character 'Mouse' - 6:30 p.m. - Willard Library**

Listen to stories and enjoy a fun-filled time from the book If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

[www.willard.lib.mi.us](http://www.willard.lib.mi.us)

**In Search of Woodcock - 8:30 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**

Venture to the edge of open fields to catch a glimpse of these amazing birds

[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

## 11 Wednesday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**

Hop

[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Kalamazoo Indoor Flea & Farmers Market - 8:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Fairgrounds- Expo North**

Flea market! Plus fresh produce, meat, eggs, maple syrup, honey and more!

[www.kalamazooexpoctr.com/](http://www.kalamazooexpoctr.com/)

**Birds & Coffee - 8:30 a.m. - Kellogg Bird Sanctuary**

An experienced guide will choose the best trail to see a variety of wild birds at the Sanctuary

[www.kbs.msu.edu](http://www.kbs.msu.edu)

**Toddler Talk - 10:00 a.m. - KPL Oshtemo Branch Library**

Toddlers play while adults share joys and challenges of the 1-3 year old.

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

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[www.coreythompsonstutoring.com](http://www.coreythompsonstutoring.com)

**PRESCHOOL PALS STORYTIME - 10:15 a.m. - Parchment Community Library**  
 Stories, songs, fingerplays  
[www.parchmentlibrary.org](http://www.parchmentlibrary.org)

**Family Story-time - 10:30 a.m. KPL Alma Powell Branch Library**  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Preschool Story-time - 10:30 a.m. - Portage District Library**  
 Preschool age children will build language skills while listening to stories  
[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**Rabbit Ears Story-time - 11:30 a.m. - Barnes and Noble - Battle Creek**  
[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**Wednesday Afternoon Storytime - 1:00 p.m. - Barnes & Noble - Kalamazoo**  
[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**Baby Talk - 1:30 p.m. - KPL - Oshtemo Branch Library**  
 Talk about care of babies up to 1 year with other parents and caregivers.  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Yoga: Level II - 6:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
 Take the next step! Level II classes refine technique and add new postures with guidance  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Meet the Costumed Character 'Mouse' - 6:30 p.m. - Helen Warner Branch**  
 Listen to stories and enjoy a fun-filled time from the book If You Give a Mouse a Cookie  
[www.willard.lib.mi.us](http://www.willard.lib.mi.us)

## 12 Thursday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**  
 Hop  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Knee-High Naturalists: Animal Babies - 9:00 a.m. - Binder Park Zoo**  
 You and your child will learn about nature and animals through fun, hands-on activities.  
[www.binderparkzoo.org](http://www.binderparkzoo.org)

**Mother Goose Storytime - 9:30 a.m. - Portage District Library**  
 Designed for children from birth to 23 months.  
[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**Family Story-time - 10:30 a.m. - KPL Eastwood Branch Library**  
 Stories, songs, finger plays, and fun activities  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Meet the Costumed Character 'Mouse' - 10:30 a.m. - Helen Warner Branch**  
 Listen to stories and enjoy a fun-filled time from the book If You Give a Mouse a Cookie  
[www.willard.lib.mi.us](http://www.willard.lib.mi.us)

**Mother Goose Storytime - 10:30 a.m. - Portage District Library**  
 Designed for children from birth to 23 months.  
[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**TODDLER TALES - 10:30 a.m. - Parchment Community Library**  
[www.parchmentlibrary.org](http://www.parchmentlibrary.org)

**Artist Reception: Amy Holysz - 12:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Teen Crafternoon - 3:30 p.m. - Portage District Library**  
 We will be making jewelry and key chains out of washers  
[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**LEGO @ The Library - 4:00 p.m. - KPL Eastwood Branch Library**  
 Build, create, race, inspire, and imagine  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Museum Family Night - 5:00 p.m. - Kids N' Stuff Children's Museum**  
[www.kidsnstuff.org/index.html](http://www.kidsnstuff.org/index.html)

**Wildflowers After Work - 5:30 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
 Learn how to identify wildflowers as we enjoy a leisurely walk in the woods.  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Thursday Evening Storytime - 6:00 p.m. - Barnes and Noble Kalamazoo**  
[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**Local Foods - The CSA Model - 6:45 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
 Learn more about the CSA model as a piece of the larger nation-wide local foods movement  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

## 13 Friday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**  
 Spy Kids 4  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Bronson Winter Farmers' Market - 10:30 a.m. - Bronson Park**  
[www.bronsonhealth.com/](http://www.bronsonhealth.com/)

**Meet the Costumed Character 'Mouse' - 10:30 a.m. - Willard Library**  
 Listen to stories and enjoy a fun-filled time from the book If You Give a Mouse a Cookie  
[www.willard.lib.mi.us](http://www.willard.lib.mi.us)

## 14 Saturday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**  
 Spy Kids 4  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Free Kids Movie - 9:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**  
 Cats and Dogs  
[www.ggti.com](http://www.ggti.com)

**Brunch with Friends - 10:00 a.m. - KPL - Central Library**  
 Brunch and a spirited talk by Margean Gladysz about her fascinating memoir, A Spy on the Bus.  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Family Yoga - 10:00 a.m. - The Montessori School Kalamazoo Campus**  
[www.themontessorischool.org](http://www.themontessorischool.org)

**Free Kids Movie - 10:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**  
 Cats and Dogs  
[www.ggti.com](http://www.ggti.com)

**Springfield's Farmers Market - 11:00 a.m. - Begg Park**  
[www.springfieldmich.com](http://www.springfieldmich.com)

**KIA Library Story Time - 11:15 a.m. - Kalamazoo Institute of Arts**  
[www.kiarts.org](http://www.kiarts.org)

**Harding's**

**BABY**

**CAKES**

Only at the Westnedge Marketplace Location in front of Crossroads mall!  
 (269)327-6733

Share the Surprise with Friends and Family!  
 Ask the Doctor to seal your ultrasound results in an envelope so no one knows the gender, not even you! Bring it to the Harding's Bakery and we'll bake a blue or pink cake.  
 Learn the surprise together when you cut the cake.

Reveal if

**It's a Boy! Or It's a Girl!**

**American Girl Spring Event - 12:00 p.m. - Barnes and Noble - Battle Creek**

American Girl fans please join us and learn about the new American Girl, McKenna.

[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**Smash/Kart/Hero - 2:00 p.m. -KPL - Central Library**

Get your game on with THREE different games!

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**15 Sunday****Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**

Spy Kids 4

[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Free Kids Movie - 9:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**

Cats and Dogs

[www.gqti.com](http://www.gqti.com)

**Free Kids Movie - 10:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**

Cats and Dogs

[www.gqti.com](http://www.gqti.com)

**Birding Basics - 2:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**

Tips on identification, focusing your binoculars, and using a field guide

[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**16 Monday****Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**

Spy Kids 4

[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Great Start Parent Coalition Meeting - 9:30 a.m. - KRESA West Campus, Room 123**

We meet monthly to work on projects at the state and local level to help families

[greatstartforkids.org](http://greatstartforkids.org)

**Terrific Twos Story-time - 9:30 a.m. - Portage District Library**

Letters, sounds, new words and self expression through books, finger plays and movement

[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**Family Storytimes - 10 a.m.- KPL Central Library**

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Monday Morning Storytime - 10:00 a.m. - Barnes & Noble Kalamazoo**

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/>

**Cafe Monday - 3:00 p.m. - Marshall District Library**

Grades 6 to 12: Participate in MDL's Easter Egg Hunt!

[www.marshalldistrictlibrary.org](http://www.marshalldistrictlibrary.org)

**Yoga: level I - 6:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**

A rejuvenating evening of Iyengar-based yoga

[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**17 Tuesday****Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**

Spy Kids 4

[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Birdie's Big-Girl Shoes Storytime - 10:00 a.m. - Barnes and Noble - Battle Creek**

[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**EVEN PRINCESSES AND SUPERHERO'S NEED REGULAR CHIROPRACTIC CHECK-UPS.**

Support your child's health naturally!

Call (269) 381-1800 today to set-up a consultation



Valerie A. Stroupe, DC  
James H. Stroupe, DC

**Preschool Story-time - 10:00 a.m. - KPL - Central Library**

Stories, crafts, fingerplays, and other fun activities for the 3½-5 year old.

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Stroller Stroll - 10:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**

Explore the wonders of nature while we enjoy a leisurely walk along stroller-friendly paths.

[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Preschool Story-time - 10:30 a.m. - Portage District Library**

Preschool age children will build language skills while listening to stories

[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**Young Rembrandts Preschool Art - 11:15 a.m. - W.K. Kellogg Agricultural School Room 1013**

Learning to draw basic shapes is an essential building block for every learner.

[www.gulllakecs.org](http://www.gulllakecs.org)

**Preschool Pals Storytime - 1:00 p.m. - Parchment Community Library**

Stories, songs, fingerplays

[www.parchmentlibrary.org](http://www.parchmentlibrary.org)

**Family Story-time - 2:00 p.m. - KPL - Washington Square Branch Library**

Stories, songs, finger plays, and fun activities

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Reminisce Tea - 3:00 p.m. - W.K. Kellogg Manor House**

Reservations required.

[www.kbs.msu.edu](http://www.kbs.msu.edu)

**Open Skate - 6:00 p.m. - Rollerworld**

[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

**Birds, Bees, Butterflies - 6:30 p.m. - KPL - Eastwood Branch Library**

Master gardener Barbara Johnston reveals which flowers attract birds, bees, and butterflies

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**It's All About the Zoo! Storytime - 6:30 p.m. - Marshall District Library**

Practice all your favorite animal sounds at the library during this wild storytime.

[www.marshalldistrictlibrary.org](http://www.marshalldistrictlibrary.org)

**In Search of Woodcock - 8:30 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**

Venture to the edge of open fields to catch a glimpse of these amazing birds

[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**18 Wednesday****Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**

Spy Kids 4

[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Growing Families: Older Siblings and New Babies - 9:30 a.m. - Zion Lutheran Church**

Local La Leche League Group Leaders are available by phone to discuss your questions

[www.lalecheleague.org](http://www.lalecheleague.org)

**Toddler Talk - 10:00 a.m. - KPL Oshtemo Branch Library**

Toddlers play while adults share joys and challenges of the 1-3 year old.

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Preschool Pals Storytime - 10:15 a.m. - Parchment Community Library**

Stories, songs, fingerplays

[www.parchmentlibrary.org](http://www.parchmentlibrary.org)

**Family Story-time - 10:30 a.m. KPL Alma Powell Branch Library**

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Preschool Story-time - 10:30 a.m. - Portage District Library**

Preschool age children will build language skills while listening to stories

[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**Birdie's Big-Girl Shoes Storytime - 11:30 a.m. - Barnes and Noble - Battle Creek**

[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**Wednesday Afternoon Storytime - 1:00 p.m. - Barnes & Noble - Kalamazoo**

[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**Baby Talk - 1:30 p.m. - KPL - Oshtemo Branch Library**

Talk about care of babies up to 1 year with other parents and caregivers.

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Art Attack After School - 4:00 p.m. - KPL - Eastwood Branch Library**

Drop in for fun, food, games, crafts! Gr 5-12.

[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Knitting for Conservation - 4:00 p.m. - Binder Park Zoo**

Calling all knitters! Grab your yarn and knitting needles

[www.binderparkzoo.org](http://www.binderparkzoo.org)

**Yoga: Level II - 6:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**

Take the next step! Level II classes refine technique and add new postures with guidance

[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)



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Call us today  
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*Your Kids Will  
Thank You!*

**Call Today! 269-274-5246**

**Red Tail Ring - 7:00 p.m. - KPL - Central Library**  
A performance infused with musical imagination, harmonies and artistry  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

## 19 Thursday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**  
Spy Kids 4  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Knee-High Naturalists: Insects - 9:00 a.m. - Binder Park Zoo**  
You and your child will learn about nature and animals through fun, hands-on activities.  
[www.binderparkzoo.org](http://www.binderparkzoo.org)

**Mother Goose Storytime - 9:30 a.m. - Portage District Library**  
Designed for children from birth to 23 months.  
[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**Family Story-time - 10:30 a.m. - KPL Eastwood Branch Library**  
Stories, songs, finger plays, and fun activities  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Mother Goose Storytime - 10:30 a.m. - Portage District Library**  
Designed for children from birth to 23 months.  
[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**Toddler Tales - 10:30 a.m. - Parchment Community Library**  
[www.parchmentlibrary.org](http://www.parchmentlibrary.org)

**Museum Family Night - 5:00 p.m. - Kids N' Stuff Children's Museum**  
[www.kidsnstuff.org/index.html](http://www.kidsnstuff.org/index.html)

**Wildflowers After Work - 5:30 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
Learn how to identify wildflowers as we enjoy a leisurely walk in the woods.  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Thursday Evening Storytime - 6:00 p.m. - Barnes and Noble Kalamazoo**  
[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**Classics Revisited - 7:00 p.m. - KPL - Central Library**  
Join lovers of classic literature to discuss Nikolai Gogol's Dead Souls  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

## 20 Friday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**  
Puss in Boots  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**ABC Activity Time - 10:00 a.m. - Portage District Library**  
This is a time for your child to practice skills that will help them get ready to read!  
[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**Family Yoga - 11:00 a.m. - The Montessori School Richland Campus**  
[www.themontessorischool.org](http://www.themontessorischool.org)

**Binder Park Zoo Opening Day!! - 12:00 p.m. - Binder Park Zoo**  
Discover spectacular views of wild animals from elevated boardwalks.  
[www.binderparkzoo.org](http://www.binderparkzoo.org)

**Cake Pop Decorating - 3:00 p.m. - Marshall District Library**  
[marshalldistrictlibrary.org/](http://marshalldistrictlibrary.org/)

## 21 Saturday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**  
Puss in Boots  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Earth Day Celebration - Free Admission Day at KNC! - 9:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
Celebrate Earth Day by exploring the trails and exhibits on this free admission day!  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Free Kids Movie - 9:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**  
Happy Feet 2  
[www.ggti.com](http://www.ggti.com)

**Spring Clean Up Day! - 9:00 a.m. - Calhoun County Fairgrounds**  
Bring your rakes and gloves. Together we will clean the grounds and get it ready  
[www.calhouncountyfair.org](http://www.calhouncountyfair.org)

**DeLano Farms Open House - 10:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Free Kids Movie - 10:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**  
Happy Feet 2  
[www.ggti.com](http://www.ggti.com)

**Kalamazoo Reptile & Exotic Animal Show - 10:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Fairgrounds**  
Buy sell or trade a variety of reptiles, amphibians and other exotic pets.  
[www.kalamazooreptileshow.com](http://www.kalamazooreptileshow.com)

**Springfield's Farmers Market - 11:00 a.m. - Begg Park**  
[www.springfieldmich.com](http://www.springfieldmich.com)

**Prairie Home Trail Companion - 2:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
Explore the habitats seen along the stretch of KRVT heading toward Markin Glen Park.  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Earth Day Concert - 3:00 p.m. - KPL - Oshtemo Branch Library**  
This special concert event will include activities for children.  
<http://www.kpl.gov>

**Once in a Blue Moon Garage Sale - 7:00 p.m. - St. Augustine Cathedral School - Crowley Center**  
[stakzoo.org](http://stakzoo.org)

## 22 Sunday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**  
Puss in Boots  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Free Kids Movie - 9:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**  
Happy Feet 2  
[www.ggti.com](http://www.ggti.com)

**Free Kids Movie - 10:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**  
Happy Feet 2  
[www.ggti.com](http://www.ggti.com)

**LEGO @ The Library - 10:30 a.m. - KPL Oshtemo Branch Library**  
Build, create, race, inspire, and imagine  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Earth Day - Free Admission - 11:00 a.m. - Kellogg Bird Sanctuary**  
[www.kbs.msu.edu](http://www.kbs.msu.edu)

**Wildflower Walk - 2:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
Come search for early bloomers: Bloodroot, Dutchman's Breeches, Hepatica, and more  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

## 23 Monday

**Arbor Week Celebration Festivities - Leila Arboretum & Children's Garden**  
[www.lasgarden.org](http://www.lasgarden.org)

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**  
Puss in Boots  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Terrific Twos Story-time - 9:30 a.m. - Portage District Library**  
Letters, sounds, new words and self expression through books, finger plays and movement  
[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**Family Storytimes - 10 a.m. - KPL Central Library**  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Monday Morning Storytime - 10:00 a.m. - Barnes & Noble Kalamazoo**  
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/>

**Young Rembrandts Preschool Art - 11:15 a.m. - W.K. Kellogg Agricultural School Room 1013**  
Learning to draw basic shapes is an essential building block for every learner.  
[www.gulllakecs.org](http://www.gulllakecs.org)

**Pizza & Pages Book Discussion - 2:30 p.m. - Marshall District Library**  
[www.marshalldistrictlibrary.org](http://www.marshalldistrictlibrary.org)

**Enrollment Information Meeting - 6:00 p.m. -****Paramount Charter Academy**

Learn about our no cost public charter school  
[www.ParamountCharterAcademy.org](http://www.ParamountCharterAcademy.org)

**Yoga: level I - 6:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**

A rejuvenating evening of Iyengar-based yoga  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**24 Tuesday****Arbor Week Celebration Festivities - Leila Arboretum & Children's Garden**

[www.lasgarden.org](http://www.lasgarden.org)

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**

Puss in Boots  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Birding with the Stars - 8:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**

Join experts for morning hikes where we will learn birding techniques  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Kite Day: Storytime - 10:00 a.m. - Barnes and Noble - Battle Creek**

[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**Preschool Story-time - 10:00 a.m. - KPL - Central Library**

Stories, crafts, fingerplays, and other fun activities for the 3½-5 year old.  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Preschool Story-time - 10:30 a.m. - Portage District Library**

Preschool age children will build language skills while listening to stories  
[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**Preschool Pals Storytime - 1:00 p.m. - Parchment Community Library**

Stories, songs, fingerplays  
[www.parchmentlibrary.org](http://www.parchmentlibrary.org)

**Family Story-time - 2:00 p.m. - KPL - Washington Square Branch Library**

Stories, songs, finger plays, and fun activities  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Kindergarten Readiness Workshop - 4:00 p.m. - Endeavor Charter Academy**

A community event for parents with children going into kindergarten Fall 2012  
[www.endeavorcharteracademy.org](http://www.endeavorcharteracademy.org)

**Open Skate - 6:00 p.m. - Rollerworld**

[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

**25 Wednesday****Arbor Week Celebration Festivities - Leila Arboretum & Children's Garden**

[www.lasgarden.org](http://www.lasgarden.org)

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**

Puss in Boots  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Birding the Kleinstuck Preserve - 8:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**

Join KNC research staff as they record the spring migrants that stop over in this city woods  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Toddler Talk - 10:00 a.m. - KPL Oshtemo Branch Library**

Toddlers play while adults share joys and challenges of the 1-3 year old.  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**BOOKS, MUSIC, ETC.**

By Vicki Girard

**Music Play for Folks of All Stripes: CD Plus Bonus DVD**

Jim Gill

Award winning musician, author and child development specialist Jim Gill's sixth playful recording for young children and the adults who care for them. **Music Play for Folks of All Stripes** is a fun CD that encourages play and movement with the child. Be sure to watch the DVD interview about the song "Living Inside A Jar", a song with musicians that blow, pluck and strike glass bottles is quite interesting and entertaining. The DVD provides inspiration while watching others play/dance/jump along to the music.

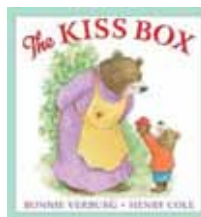


[www.jimgill.com](http://www.jimgill.com)

**The Kiss Box**

By Bonnie Verburg & Henry Cole

**The Kiss Box** is a cute story about Mama Bear having to go away for a little while and Little Bear did not like that idea at all. He wants to know when she will be back and she explains to him that she is always with him and that she will send him kisses every minute they are apart. She tells him she will give him a special jar with a hundred kisses in it and every time he needs a kiss, just open the jar and he will get a kiss from Mama. This is a great story that will help little ones with the sadness that sometimes comes from being separated from Mom or Dad.

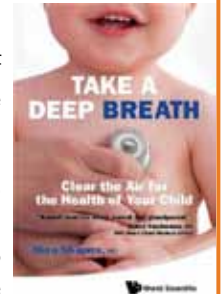


[www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com)

**Take a Deep Breath**

By Nina Shapiro, MD

About 80 to 90% of children, at some time or another will have a breathing problem. **Take a Deep Breath** offers a very well organized, easy to read book about the things that can cause breathing problems in your child and should be on every parent's bookshelf. Dr. Shapiro has broken up the book by the child's age and is written in an easy question and answer type format, letting you easily scan the pages for the topic you are most interested in at the time. She includes in each section what you should and should not worry about and resources for further reading. She answers questions such as Can a Newborn Have Asthma?, Nebulizers: What's in Them?, and Choking Hazards: What is Safe to Eat? This book is a great resource for the parents, grandparents and caregivers of children newborn – school age.



[www.drninashapiro.com](http://www.drninashapiro.com)

**Thomas & Friends: Engine Activities**

Callaway Digital Arts, Inc.  
 iPhone and iPad App

**Thomas & Friends** interactive app will have little engineers entertained as they do puzzles, color pages and match their favorite train engines. This app is rated for ages 4+, but it entertained both by 2 and 5 year old with two different puzzle levels, as well as two levels of difficulty while playing the matching game.



[www.callaway.com](http://www.callaway.com)

## Event Calendar

**Preschool Pals Storytime - 10:15 a.m. - Parchment Community Library**  
Stories, songs, fingerplays  
[www.parchmentlibrary.org](http://www.parchmentlibrary.org)

**Family Story-time - 10:30 a.m. KPL Alma Powell Branch Library**  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Family Story-time - 10:30 a.m. - KPL Eastwood Branch Library**  
Stories, songs, finger plays, and fun activities  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Preschool Story-time - 10:30 a.m. - Portage District Library**  
Preschool age children will build language skills while listening to stories  
[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**Kite Day: Storytime - 11:30 a.m. - Barnes and Noble - Battle Creek**  
[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**Wednesday Afternoon Storytime - 1:00 p.m. - Barnes & Noble - Kalamazoo**  
[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**Baby Talk - 1:30 p.m. - KPL - Oshtemo Branch Library**  
Talk about care of babies up to 1 year with other parents and caregivers.  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Yoga: Level II - 6:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
Take the next step! Level II classes refine technique and add new postures with guidance  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Toddler Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - Gilmore for Kids: Pianimal - 7:00 p.m. - Wellspring Theater**  
Enjoy a musical safari evening and spot the wild Pianimal in its most natural habitat  
[www.thegilmore.org](http://www.thegilmore.org)

## 26 Thursday

**Arbor Week Celebration Festivities - Leila Arboretum & Children's Garden**  
[www.lasgarden.org](http://www.lasgarden.org)

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**  
Puss in Boots  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Mother Goose Storytime - 9:30 a.m. - Portage District Library**  
Designed for children from birth to 23 months.  
[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**The first few weeks at home with baby - 10:00 a.m. - Richland Community Center**  
La Leche League Leaders are available by phone to discuss your questions about breastfeeding  
[www.lalecheleague.org](http://www.lalecheleague.org)

**Mother Goose Storytime - 10:30 a.m. - Portage District Library**  
Designed for children from birth to 23 months.  
[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**TODDLER TALES - 10:30 a.m. - Parchment Community Library**  
[www.parchmentlibrary.org](http://www.parchmentlibrary.org)

**Minute to Win It - 2:30 p.m. - Marshall District Library**  
Grades 6 to 12: We'll recreate the popular game show, prizes and all!  
[www.marshalldistrictlibrary.org/](http://www.marshalldistrictlibrary.org/)

**J-Pop Club - 3:30 p.m. - KPL - Central Library**  
Anime, manga and Pocky for all!  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Art Attack - 4:00 p.m. - KPL - Washington Square Branch Library**  
Drop in downstairs for fun, food, games, crafts!  
Gr 5-12.  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**LEGO @ The Library - 4:00 p.m. - KPL Eastwood Branch Library**  
Build, create, race, inspire, and imagine  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Museum Family Night - 5:00 p.m. - Kids N' Stuff Children's Museum**  
[www.kidsnstuff.org/index.html](http://www.kidsnstuff.org/index.html)

**LEGO Block Party - 5:30 p.m. - Portage District Library**  
[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**Wildflowers After Work - 5:30 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
Learn how to identify wildflowers as we enjoy a leisurely walk in the woods.  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Thursday Evening Storytime - 6:00 p.m. - Barnes and Noble Kalamazoo**  
[www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

**Fiddler on the Roof - 7:00 p.m. - Comstock Community Auditorium**  
The story of a family caught between tradition and the changing world around them.  
[hpami.org](http://hpami.org)

**2012 Bike Shorts - 8:00 p.m. - Western Michigan University's Little Theatre/ Oakland Recital Hall**  
A collection of short films that celebrate bicycles and the culture that surrounds them.  
[KalamazooBicycleFilmFestival.com](http://KalamazooBicycleFilmFestival.com)

## 27 Friday

**Arbor Week Celebration Festivities - Leila Arboretum & Children's Garden**  
[www.lasgarden.org](http://www.lasgarden.org)

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**  
Happy Feet 2  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Legos! Legos! Legos! - 10:00 a.m. - Portage District Library**  
LEGOS of various sizes will be provided for all ability levels.  
[www.pdl.lib.mi.us](http://www.pdl.lib.mi.us)

**Teen/Tween Final Friday Book Discussions - 5:30 p.m. - Bookbug**  
Free pizza, discussion of a new young adult book or series and give-aways.  
[www.bookbugkids.com](http://www.bookbugkids.com)

**Fiddler on the Roof - 7:00 p.m. - Comstock Community Auditorium**  
The story of a family caught between tradition and the changing world around them.  
[hpami.org](http://hpami.org)

**Gilmore for Kids: Pianimal - 7:00 p.m. - Wellspring Theater**  
Enjoy a musical safari evening and spot the wild Pianimal in its most natural habitat  
[www.thegilmore.org](http://www.thegilmore.org)

## 28 Saturday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**  
Happy Feet 2  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**2012 Southwestern Michigan Heart Walk - 9:00 a.m. - Arcadia Creek Festival Place**  
[kalamazooheartwalk.org](http://kalamazooheartwalk.org)

**Free Kids Movie - 9:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**  
Journey 2  
[www.gqti.com](http://www.gqti.com)

**Free Kids Movie - 10:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**  
Journey 2  
[www.gqti.com](http://www.gqti.com)

**Spring Bazaar - 10:00 a.m. - Plainwell Area Community Center**  
Over 40 crafters and your favorite home based businesses will be there  
[www.americantowns.com/mi/plainwell](http://www.americantowns.com/mi/plainwell)

**YMCA Healthy Kids Day - 10:00 a.m. - Held at the both the Maple and Portage Branches**  
[www.kzooyymca.org](http://www.kzooyymca.org)

**Springfield's Farmers Market - 11:00 a.m. - Begg Park**  
[www.springfieldmich.com](http://www.springfieldmich.com)

**Family Adventure Challenge Course - 12:00 p.m. - Sherman Lake YMCA Camp**  
First ever family race that will follow an adventure challenge course format  
[www.shermanlakeymca.org](http://www.shermanlakeymca.org)

**Sherman Lake YMCA Healthy Kids Day - Free - 2:00 p.m. -**  
Activities will include: climbing wall, indoor pool, arts & crafts, games and more!  
[www.shermanlakeymca.org](http://www.shermanlakeymca.org)

**Fiddler on the Roof - 7:00 p.m. - Comstock Community Auditorium**  
The story of a family caught between tradition and the changing world around them.  
[hpami.org](http://hpami.org)

## 29 Sunday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration! Cinema Crossroads**  
Happy Feet 2  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Leopold Education Project Workshop - 8:30 a.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
Expand your appreciation for nature and with this educational program  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

**Free Kids Movie - 9:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**  
Journey 2  
[www.gqti.com](http://www.gqti.com)

**Free Kids Movie - 10:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo 10 & W. Columbia 7**  
Journey 2  
[www.gqti.com](http://www.gqti.com)

**DeLano's Wildflowers - 2:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
Join Naturalist Dave Brown for a leisurely stroll through the Pioneer Woods.  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)



## 30 Monday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration!**  
**Cinema Crossroads**  
 Happy Feet 2  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Family Storytimes - 10 a.m.- KPL Central Library**  
[www.kpl.gov](http://www.kpl.gov)

**Monday Morning Storytime - 10:00 a.m. - Barnes & Noble Kalamazoo**  
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/>

**Young Rembrandts Preschool Art - 11:15 a.m. - W.K. Kellogg Agricultural School Room 1013**  
 Learning to draw basic shapes is an essential building block for every learner.  
[www.gulllakecs.org](http://www.gulllakecs.org)

**Yoga: level I - 6:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
 A rejuvenating evening of Iyengar-based yoga  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

## 1 Tuesday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration!**  
**Cinema Crossroads**  
 Happy Feet 2  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Home School Discovery Day - 10:00 a.m. - Air Zoo**

Students will carve their very own propeller. They'll then learn about the P-47 Thunderbolt  
[www.airzoo.org](http://www.airzoo.org)

**Preschool Pals Storytime - 1:00 p.m. - Parchment Community Library**  
 Stories, songs, fingerplays  
[www.parchmentlibrary.org](http://www.parchmentlibrary.org)

**Open Skate - 6:00 p.m. - Rollerworld**  
[www.rollerworld.net](http://www.rollerworld.net)

**Yoga: Level II - 6:00 p.m. - Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
 Take the next step! Level II classes refine technique and add new postures with guidance  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

## 2 Wednesday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration!**  
**Cinema Crossroads**  
 Happy Feet 2  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

## 3 Thursday

**Flick's Family Film Festival - Celebration!**  
**Cinema Crossroads**  
 Happy Feet 2  
[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

**Museum Family Night - 5:00 p.m. - Kids N' Stuff Children's Museum**  
[www.kidsnstuff.org/index.html](http://www.kidsnstuff.org/index.html)

## 4 Friday

**Fiddler on the Roof - 7:00 p.m. - Comstock Community Auditorium**  
 The story of a family caught between tradition and the changing world around them.  
[hpami.org](http://hpami.org)

## 5 Saturday

**2012 March for Babies - 9:00 a.m. - Celery Flats Interpretive Center**  
 The Kalamazoo Division of the March of Dimes looks forward to the 2012 March for Babies campaign to help give all babies a healthy start. Enjoy a 4-mile walk along scenic Portage Creek.  
[www.marchforbabies.org](http://www.marchforbabies.org)

**Kids Workshops - 9:00 a.m. - Home Depot**  
 Workshops teach children do-it-yourself skills, tool safety and instill a sense of pride and accomplishment.  
[www.homeimproverclub.com](http://www.homeimproverclub.com)

**Fiddler on the Roof - 1:00 p.m. - Comstock Community Auditorium**  
 The story of a family caught between tradition and the changing world around them.  
[hpami.org](http://hpami.org)

**Fiddler on the Roof - 7:00 p.m. - Comstock Community Auditorium**  
 The story of a family caught between tradition and the changing world around them.  
[hpami.org](http://hpami.org)

# Nature's Way Preschool

Kalamazoo Nature Center

## Now Enrolling!

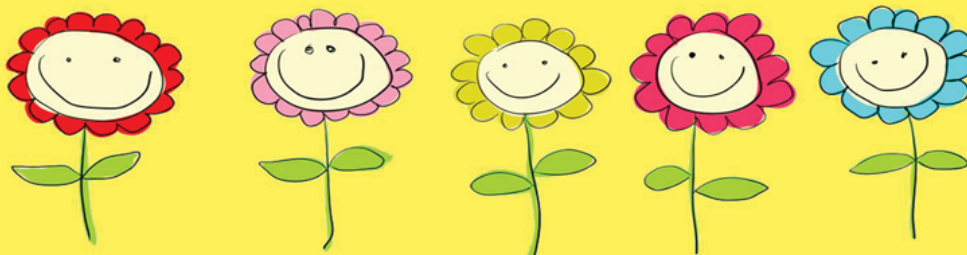
Limited spaces available for  
 3-4 year old program

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30-11:30 am

- Located on nine acres right in the middle of town
- Naturalized playground and free play area
- Each class benefits from three outstanding teachers
- Connecting children with nature while developing kindergarten readiness skills
- Promoting growth in physical, social, emotional and intellectual areas

[www.NatureCenter.org](http://www.NatureCenter.org)

**Nature's Way Preschool**  
 4442 Oakland Drive  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
 (269) 343-7342





# Teaching children about music in a fun, interactive environment!

Once weekly, 45-minute classes are held at Bronson Athletic Club, 6789 Elm Valley Drive, Kalamazoo.

*Classes are limited to 8 children to ensure a personal experience.*

Two age-specific classes are available.

## **INFANT/TODDLER (birth–age 3)**

Children will be immersed in music during each 45-minute session. The instructor will sing songs in many different modalities and keys to provide them with an environment that is rich in quality music. Movements utilizing space, weight, flow and time will be incorporated into the lesson. Each child will receive a course CD for home use.

## **PRESCHOOL (ages 3–5)**

Children will sing, chant, develop pitch and rhythm skills, and continue to grow musically through imitation singing and instrument play. A theme incorporating children's literature, musical motifs, songs and instrument play on Orff xylophones will be used. During each class, a composer will be highlighted and words relating to that composer will be added to our "Word Bank," thereby enhancing students' reading ability. A CD for home use will reinforce the music that we sing and chant each week.

*All classes are taught by Julie Ream, Master of Music, Northwestern University.*



For more information:

**Music Makers, LLC**  
**[www.musicmakersfun.com](http://www.musicmakersfun.com)**  
[musicmakersfun@gmail.com](mailto:musicmakersfun@gmail.com)  
(269) 207-2164

Watch  
our  
3-minute  
video clip!