



Pleasant Valley Playgroup

at St. Matthew's UCC
1427 Pleasant Valley Road
Westminster, MD 21158

Welcome to all parents and care-givers to the Pleasant Valley Playgroup

Our Pleasant Valley Playgroup is back in session on Friday, September 5th. I can't wait to hear what everyone has done over the summer vacation. Unfortunately, we will be saying good-bye to Deanna as she embarks on a new full time career with Courtyard Kitchens. We will hopefully be seeing her occasionally when we have a special day at playgroup or a trip. This year I hope to continue with some of our same activities around the different seasons and holidays. I will also be continuing to take field trips to the Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo in June, and to Kid's Kingdom Creative Playground along with some others as well. On rainy days we may decide to meet at Polar Palace in Hampstead. How would you feel about going to Baugher's and picking out a pumpkin and visiting the petting area? I would also appreciate any suggestions on activities for the playgroup to do together or creating a "Mom's Night Out" once every 6-8 weeks.

In addition we are also asking parent/care givers to fill out or update Emergency Cards for the playgroup files. Please be sure to mark any food allergies and also let Emily know as well since when we have parties we will be asking parents to contribute a snack or beverage for all to share. Allergy friendly food suggestions are available along with recipes upon request.

After running the playgroup last year and having to make phone calls on bad weather days I have decided to make the call now. If Carroll County Public Schools are delayed or closed due to weather playgroup will not take place that day and will resume as normal the following week.

Please plan on playing outside when weather permits. I am looking forward to seeing you on Friday, September 5th.

Emily

Calendar of upcoming Events...

Playgroup meets each Friday 10A.M. - Noon

September 5th - First day Playgroup

September 12th

September 19st

September 26th

October 3rd

October 10th

October 17th

October 24th -possible trip to Baugher's

October 31st - Halloween Celebration -
come dressed in costume

November 7th

November 14th

November 21st - Harvest Party - come
prepared to make Thanksgiving Crafts

November 28th - No Playgroup due to holiday

December 5th

December 12th

December 19th - Holiday Party - come
prepared to make some winter crafts

December 26th - No Playgroup due to holiday

January 2nd - No Playgroup due to holiday
see you back on January 12th

** Note that when Carroll County Schools are delayed or closed due to weather the playgroup will also be closed.

** Parties are held during regular playgroup hours. Each child is able to make a special party craft. Families are asked to bring an allergy friendly refreshment to share with the group. Refreshment sign-up sheets are posted on our bulletin board.

Other Helpful Information:

I have been doing some research this summer on different educational activities to do with my own children and I would like to share them with you.

Did you know that Carroll County Public Schools offers a program to parents? The program is called Parents as Teachers or Families Learning Together. This program is free and a certified Parent Educator comes to meet with you and your child. The program helps you learn about age-appropriate child behaviors and will answer any questions you may have. You will also learn about group meetings such as MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) If needed you will learn about any screening test you might need for your child for overall development as well as health concerns. You will also learn about other community services you may find helpful. The best thing about the program is it helps us as parents be the best parents we can be and teaches us that as infants to pre-school our children learn the most through play. For more information you can contact Parents as Teachers at 410-751-3261. This program is a nation wide program and you can get more information on the following website www.ParentsAsTeachers.org or info@ParentsAsTeachers.org

I have also found a great website for information and other activities - www.PreschoolRock.com

Top Ten Books for Pre-Schoolers

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Giggle, Giggle Quack by Doreen Cronin

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson

If you Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff

Timothy Goes to School by Rosemary Wells

Olivia by Ian Falconer

If you Give a Moose a Muffin by Laura Numeroff

Rainbow Fish to the Rescue by Marcus Fister

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin, Sr and John Archambault

New Members Welcome

Come join us at Pleasant Valley Playgroup! The playgroup is open to all families with children from infants up to age 5. There are no fees or dues to participate in the weekly playgroup. Playgroup is sponsored by St. Matthew's UCC which graciously allows us to meet in their downstairs classroom area.

Thank you for joining our playgroup - if you have any questions please feel free to contact Emily Barnette -home 410.876.2428
cell 410.292.7393
barnettepartyof5@comcast.net