

Home City Families

DECEMBER 2023
NEWSLETTER

Family Playgroups

Mondays- Indian Orchard Library @ 10:30AM

Tuesdays- Forest Park Library @ 10:30AM &
Sixteen Acres @ 1:30PM

Wednesdays- Mason Square Library Gross motor
group @ 10:30AM

Thursdays- HCF Family Space @ 10:30AM

Fridays- East Forest Park Library @ 1:30PM &
1st and 3rd 12/1 & 12/15 Baby and Me Playgroup
East Forest Park Library @ 10:00AM

*See Facebook or website calendar for details

Programs/Dates to Highlight

Holiday Craft
12/15, 10:30AM @
the Homer
Playgroup

&

Tom Knight
Performance East
Forest Park
10:30AM



Family Learning Guide Theme

**Safe, Helpful,
Healthy Me**

*download guide from
facebook or our website

**Stay up to date on all things
Home City Families:**

WWW.HOMECITYFAMILIES.COM

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HOMECITYFAMILIES



Literacy Lens

What is dialogic reading?

Dialogic reading involves an adult and child having a dialogue around a book they are reading aloud together.

When most adults share a book with a preschooler, they read and the child listens. In dialogic reading, the adult helps the child become the teller of the story. The adult becomes the listener, the questioner, and the audience for the child. No one can learn to play the piano just by listening to someone else play. Likewise, no one can learn to read just by listening to someone else read. Children learn most from books when they are actively involved. It's never too early to start using this technique!

Everyday ways to enhance your child's fine motor development:

Many of your child's daily activities—like getting dressed, eating, and writing—require control of small muscles in the hands. We call these skills fine motor skills. Your child can do more things for themselves when they have opportunities to practice these skills. There are lots of activities that can increase muscle strength and coordination, preparing children for more advanced skills, from writing with a pencil, using a computer mouse, or playing a musical instrument.

Help strengthen fine motor skills by:

- Writing, drawing, coloring.
- Cutting with scissors.
- Clapping hands.
- Waving.
- Using utensils for eating.
- Brushing teeth.
- Turning the pages of a book.

Milo was checking out our climber at our gross motor playgroup at Mason Square Library. Bring your little one to check it out too!



Milo approved!

Milo's Adventures

COURTNEY'S CRAFTY CORNER

Time can be an abstract concept for kids. Create a paper chain to countdown to the New Year! Cut strips of paper about 1 inch wide. Make a loop and staple it. Then add additional chain links looping through the previous one. For added fun, write a random act of kindness on each strip before stapling! Examples: Make a card for a neighbor, give someone a compliment, play with someone new, pick up trash outside.



Did you know?

A 4 year old asks about 437 questions a day!

(yes, you need patience)



HOME CITY FAMILIES, the Springfield Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant funded by the Department of Early Education and Care, offers a network of information, support and programming for families in Springfield.

