

# Midland County Family Activity Guide



Spring 2019





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION . . . . .	01
HEALTHY FAMILIES . . . . .	02
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL . . . . .	03
LANGUAGE AND LITERACY . . . . .	04
MATH . . . . .	05
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE ARTS . . . . .	06
EVENT CALENDAR. . . . .	07

---

Hello Families!

Happy Spring Midland families! You've probably noticed your child has already learned so much this year. This guide provides some quick tips for learning at home and fun FREE or low cost Midland County events. In this guide you will find:



**Kindergarten Readiness** It is important in the early years to prepare children for Kindergarten. Kindergarten Readiness is the result of a partnership between teachers, community partners, and parents. Each page of this guide contains a checklist for the skills we are building to help your child prepare for kindergarten and beyond.



**Home Connection** A child's family is their first teacher. Families are busy, and preparing for kindergarten can be overwhelming. Each box labeled "home connection" has free, easy, and fun ideas that fit into your daily routine. Have fun learning while playing "I Spy" in the car, pretending to be a "clean up robot" or making a healthy snack together.



**Community Connection** Have you ever heard the African proverb "It takes a village to raise a child?" Midland County certainly understands that philosophy. In the bottom right hand corner of each page, you'll find FREE and low cost community activities and resources to help your child grow. Additionally, a complete list of this season's family fun activities is on page 7. Research shows children who participate in community events have higher achievement and school success. Have fun learning and exploring all of the exciting resources Midland has to offer!



# Home Connection

## Puddle Jumping!

When the weather is rainy and uncomfortable for us as adults, it doesn't mean that our children feel that way! Rain puddles have an almost magnetic pull for children. They love to jump in them, run through them, roll through them on tricycles, and feel the splashes on their legs. What a fun way to develop the gross motor skills of jumping and stomping! Children also experience cause and effect and properties of water through this simple activity.

Puddles can provide endless fun and exploration. Put on your raincoat and head outside with your child on the next



rainy day, and when the sun comes out, keep track of how long it takes for a puddle to evaporate! There is always something new to learn when we play in nature.

# Kindergarten

## Checklist



Healthy Families



- Stand on one foot for at least 8 seconds
- Do a somersault and hop
- Walk up and down stairs without help
- Walk forward and backwards easily
- Pedal a tricycle
- Copy a triangle, circle, square, and other shapes
- Stack 10 or more blocks
- Use a fork and spoon
- Dress and undress, brush teeth, and take care of other personal needs without much help

### Cooking Matters Recipe: Mini-Pizzas

Serves 6 - 2 muffin halves per serving

- 1 medium red or green bell pepper
- 8 oz button mushrooms
- 1 large tomato
- 1 (4-oz) chunk mozzarella cheese
- 6 whole grain English muffins
- 1 Tablespoon canola oil
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon dried basil
- 1 (8-oz) can tomato sauce
- 12 turkey Pepperoni slices (opt.)



- 1- Preheat oven to 450°F.
- 2- Rinse bell pepper, mushrooms, and tomato. -3- Remove core and cut pepper into thin slices. Slice mushrooms ¼-inch thick. Remove core and dice tomato into ¼-inch pieces. -4- Grate cheese into a small bowl. -5- Split English muffins in half. Place them on a baking sheet. Bake until edges are lightly browned, about 10 minutes. Prepare sauce while muffins cook. -6- In a large skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Add peppers and mushrooms. Cook for 5 minutes. If needed, use a colander to drain vegetables. -7- Transfer veggies to a medium bowl. Mix in tomatoes. -8- Stir spices into tomato sauce. Do this directly in the can. -9- When muffins are lightly browned, spoon 1 TBSP sauce over each muffin half. Coat evenly. -10- Layer veggies evenly over sauce. If using pepperoni, place 1-2 slices on each muffin half. Top with shredded cheese. -11- Bake muffins until cheese is melted and bubbly, about 6–8 minutes. -12- Let pizzas cool for 2 minutes before serving.

#### Chef Notes:

Use mini pitas in place of English muffins, if you like.  
Use any seasonal veggies you like. Try broccoli, onion, or spinach.  
Use leftover cooked chicken, or turkey sausage in place of pepperoni.

### MSU Extensions: Cooking Matters



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Cooking matters is a free 6 week class that offer information on healthy snacks, shopping smart, planning balanced meals, and eating out

- Taught by a chef and nutritionist
- FREE GROCERIES-Make these recipes at home!
- FREE COOKBOOK

**For information on current Cooking Matters classes, please visit**

[www.greatstartmidland.org](http://www.greatstartmidland.org) or visit the Midland County Great Start Collaborative Facebook page.

## Get Out and Explore!

There are many fun places to explore and things to do this spring season! For more details on these and other FREE events, see page 7.

**Family Fun Night (all ages)  
Dow Library**

**Wee Stroll (6mos-2yrs w/ adult)  
Chippewa Nature Center**

**Great Start Day @ the Zoo  
May 2nd, 2PM-6PM**





# Home Connection

## Mirror Your Feelings

Identifying emotions is an important milestone for children. Kids begin to recognize and name their own anger, excitement, and sadness. They practice reading the feelings of those around them based on facial expressions, too. Help your child identify emotions by using a mirror!



Make a feeling face (happy, sad, surprised, excited, etc.) in the mirror and tell your child what feeling you're expressing.

Have them mimic the same facial expressions and notice how their face looks in the mirror. How did they change their eyes and

mouths to make a happy face? A sad face? Ask what kind of facial descriptors they can see to help identify each feeling face.

(ex. sad - frown, angry - furrowed eyebrows)

Follow up this activity by having your child draw a picture of each feeling face.

## "If You're Happy and You Know It" -- with Feelings Faces

This song is great for helping young learners express emotions. Use "feelings faces" to add a visual clue for the children. Pull each face out, one at a time, and ask "Can you guess what they are feeling?" Then sing the corresponding verse.



If you're **happy** and you know it, clap your hands...

If you're **surprised** and you know it, say "Oh my!" ...

If you're **sad** and you know it, rub your eyes "Boo hoo"...

If you're **scared** and you know it, shiver and shake...

If you're **angry** and you know it, stomp your feet...

If you're **silly** and you know it, make a funny face...

**DID YOU KNOW....we offer FREE Conscious Discipline classes for parents? Check out pg. 7 for current classes or visit [www.greatstartmidland.org](http://www.greatstartmidland.org) to learn more.**

# Kindergarten

## Checklist



### Social Emotional



- Controls strong emotions in an appropriate manner most of the time
- Manages classroom rules, routines, and transitions with occasional reminders
- Engages with familiar adults as resources, to share ideas, and interests
- Identifies basic emotions of others and their causes accurately
- Initiates, joins in, and sustains positive interactions with a small group of 2-3 children
- Initiates the sharing of materials in the classroom and outdoors
- Suggests solutions to social problems

Adapted from Teaching Strategies Gold

## Your Community

Community events are fun and exciting opportunities for children to learn, make friends, and practice the social-skills they're working to develop at home and school. Check out some of the free upcoming events below and page 7 for a full list of events.

**Midland Area Farmer's Market (starting May 4th)**  
Saturdays & Wednesdays 7AM-1PM  
Downtown Midland

**Grace's Teddy Bear Tea Party**  
Thursday 4/11 (ages 5-9)  
Dow Memorial Library Auditorium

**Little Midland - free play 0-6 years (\$4/child over 1yr)**  
MON-FRI @ 10:30AM-2:30PM  
The Loft @ Ashman Plaza





# Home Connection

## Preschool Reading: Comprehension & Sequencing

**Reading Comprehension** is understanding the meaning of the text. Young readers sometimes become so involved in the process of sounding out words, they forget to pay attention to what they are reading about! You can help your child learn to focus on what he reads by reviewing what you read together.

### How to practice reading comprehension

**WONDER WHY.** WHEN A CHARACTER DOES SOMETHING IN A STORY THAT IS EXPLAINED LATER, ASK YOUR CHILD WHY THEY THINK THE CHARACTER DID IT. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU ARE READING "THE THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF", YOU MIGHT ASK YOUR CHILD WHY THE TROLL LET THE LITTLEST BILLY GOAT GO OVER THE BRIDGE INSTEAD OF EATING HIM. AS YOU CONTINUE TO READ, YOU CAN SEE IF HIS GUESS WAS CORRECT.

**NOTICE NEW WORDS.** WHEN YOU COME ACROSS A WORD YOUR CHILD MAY NOT KNOW, STOP AND ASK HIM WHAT THE WORD MEANS. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU READ "THERE WAS AN ENORMOUS CRASH!" AS YOUR CHILD "WHAT DOES ENORMOUS MEAN?" IF HE DOESN'T KNOW, YOU CAN EXPLAIN IT TO HIM, THEN RE-READ THE SENTENCE. THIS WILL HELP HIM UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF WHAT IS BEING READ AND HE WILL BEGIN TO FEEL MORE CONFIDENT ASKING ABOUT WORDS HE DOESN'T KNOW. BUILDING A LARGE VOCABULARY HELPS WITH READING BECAUSE IT'S MUCH EASIER TO SOUND OUT A WORD THAT YOU KNOW THAN ONE YOU HAVE NEVER HEARD BEFORE.

**READING REVIEW.** BEFORE YOU READ A FAVORITE STORY OVER AGAIN SAY, "I REMEMBER READING THIS STORY, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PIG. DO YOU?" YOUR CHILD WILL SURELY CHIME IN AND TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED, AND PRACTICE THE IMPORTANT SKILL OF RETAINING AND REVIEWING INFORMATION.

**DELVE INTO DETAILS.** AFTER THE STORY IS FINISHED, ASK A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EVENTS AND CHARACTERS. FOR EXAMPLE: WHY DID THE MAN HIDE THE BOOK? WHO DROVE THE CAT TO THE VET? WHAT HAPPENED AFTER RECESS WAS OVER? AS YOU REPEATEDLY ENGAGE IN THESE DISCUSSIONS AFTER READING, YOUR CHILD WILL LIKELY BEGIN TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE DETAILS OF THE STORIES YOU READ (AND LATER, THE STORIES HE READS).

**Sequencing** is the ability to put the events of a story in the order in which they occurred. "Teaching sequencing to early learners is important because logical order of thinking is fundamental to reading and everyday life," says Brenda Strickland, author of *Year Round Preschool Reading*.

### How to practice sequencing

**PRACTICE PREDICTING.** WHEN READING A STORY FOR THE FIRST TIME, ASK YOUR CHILD WHAT HE THINKS WILL HAPPEN NEXT. FOR EXAMPLE, IN "THE GINGERBREAD MAN", WHAT DOES HE THINK WILL HAPPEN AFTER THE GINGERBREAD MAN GETS ON THE FOX'S BACK? IF HIS GUESS WAS NOT CORRECT, YOU CAN USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE HIM MAKE UP HIS OWN VERSION OF THE STORY AND SEE HOW IT MIGHT END DIFFERENTLY. WHEN YOU HAVE READ A STORY SEVERAL TIMES, STOP AND ASK IF YOUR CHILD KNOWS WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN ON THE NEXT PAGE.

**CREATE SEQUENCE CARDS.** AFTER YOU HAVE FINISHED READING THE STORY, HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE SEQUENCING CARDS FOR THE STORY. ON SEVERAL PIECES OF BLANK PAPER, YOU OR YOUR CHILD SHOULD DRAW PICTURES (SIMPLE STICK-FIGURES WILL DO) TO SHOW THE MAIN EVENTS IN THE STORY. YOUR CHILD CAN THEN DICTATE THE WORDS THAT GO ALONG WITH EACH PICTURE AND YOU CAN WRITE THEM FOR HIM. HAVE HIM PLACE THE CARDS IN ORDER. START WITH JUST 3 CARDS FOR THE BEGINNING, MIDDLE, AND END OF THE STORY AND ADD MORE AS YOUR CHILD IS READY.

**BUILD YOUR OWN BOOK.** HAVE YOUR CHILD MAKE BOOKS OUT OF HIS FAVORITE STORIES. STAPLE SEVERAL PIECES OF PAPER TOGETHER AND ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO DICTATE THE WORDS TO YOU (OR HE CAN WRITE THE SOUNDS HE HEARS IN EACH WORD TO REPRESENT THE WORDS). HE CAN DRAW PICTURES TO ADD TO EACH PAGE.

# Kindergarten Checklist



## Language and Literacy



- Follows directions of two or more steps (ex. put your food in the trash and rinse off your plate)
- Uses complete 4-6 word sentences
- Tells stories about places and past events in a logical order that includes major details
- Matches beginning sounds of some words
- Recognizes name and as many as 10 letters
- Produces correct sound for 10-20 letters
- Orients book correctly, turns pages from front to back, recognizes familiar books by their cover
- Identifies story-related problems, events, and resolutions during conversations with an adult
- Pretends to read using some of the language from the text, describes action across pages using pictures
- Writes strings of letters, not necessarily words

Adapted from Teaching Strategies Gold

## Story Time and Reading Activities

Check out page 7 for more details on the events listed below:

**Chippewa Nature Center - Story Hour**  
1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month  
9:30AM & 11:00AM

**Grace A. Dow Memorial Library - Tiny Tots Stories**  
Wednesdays 3/20, 4/10, 4/17, & 4/24  
10AM or 11AM

**Barnes and Noble @ Midland Mall - Story Time**  
Mondays @ 7:00PM and Wednesdays @ 11:00AM  
Saturdays @ 11:00AM



## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a nonprofit organization that promotes early childhood literacy by giving free age-appropriate books to children through age 5.

To enroll your child in Midland County Imagination Library or for more information please call Madison Schwind at 989-492-7702 ext. 1101.



# Home Connection

## The Lending Library Spring Spotlight

### COOKING & BAKING

The Lending Library has many themed activity tubs designed to help reinforce learning with children of all ages. Featured this season is the Cooking & Baking tub. This activity tub is full of exciting dramatic play options for your budding chef and baker!

Inside you will find play food, cooking utensils, dishes, pots & pans, aprons and dress up clothes. Your little ones will be ready to serve you up a wonderful meal in no time. :) They'll be sure to top it off with the most delectable gingerbread cookies too! With this tub, practice math and measurement using the measuring cups and spoons. Or play a cute cupcake shaped matching game promoting shape recognition and fine motor skills. And when you're ready to take the pretend play into the real world, there are multiple cookbooks designed to engage you and your young bakers in the kitchen.

The Cooking & Baking tub is sure to be a hit with your preschooler. Consider checking out these and other Lending Library activity tubs this season and keep the learning happening all spring long!



For more about the Lending Library and all the educational materials they have to offer, contact the Central Resource Center at (989) 492-7102.

# Kindergarten

## ⊕ Checklist <sup>1 2</sup><sub>3</sub>

### Math

- Identifies numbers to 10 by name and connects each number to an object when counting
- Counts groups of 6-10 objects and labels which groups have less, more, or the same number of objects
- Uses and responds appropriately to positional words indicating location, direction, and distance (under, over, between, close, far, behind, in front, etc.)
- Identifies 2 and 3 dimensional shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle) and describes them (round, has four sides, has 3 corners, etc.)
- Compares and orders a small set of objects according to size, length, weight; knows usual sequence of basic daily events
- Uses numbers to compare, knows the purpose of standard measuring tools
- Extends and creates simple repeating patterns



## Math in the Mail

Math in the Mail is FREE to families who qualify\*, and focuses on developing math skills in three-year-olds by providing tools needed for families. Math in the Mail packages include:

- Materials designed for hands on play
- A book
- Ideas for hands-on activities using the provided materials
- Ideas for extension activities using items found in any home
- "Tools for Talking", a guide on how to use the materials provided

### To enroll in Math in the Mail:

- Visit [www.mathinthemail.org](http://www.mathinthemail.org)
- Call (989)737-9532 to enroll over the phone
- Ask home visiting partners, Head Start, and GSRP Preschool teachers and staff for help

*\*If families do not meet eligibility requirements to receive Math in the Mail for free, they may subscribe for a fee.*



## Home Connection

### 8 Tips to Support Science Learning

#### 1. Value your child's questions

"Mommy, Daddy, why is the moon following us?" With this question, a child lets us know they are thinking about how the world works. We can respond in ways that encourage their scientific thinking. Think of how you might respond. Enjoy discussing the questions your child asks. Encourage them to share their perspective and observations.

#### 2. Explore and find the answers together

You don't have to be your child's encyclopedia and quickly try to answer all your child's questions. Responding with "What do you think?" or "I don't know but we can find out together" can stimulate more thought and additional questions.

#### 3. Give children time and space to explore

Children learn science through trial and error. They need time to experiment, try things out, and think on their own. Wait before jumping in with "correct" answers. Give them the time and space to explore and discover on their own.

#### 4. Accept that explorations are often messy.

Whether it's outdoor exploration with mud and sticks or indoors with water, children are likely to get dirty when they explore materials. Dress children in old clothing and tell them it's ok to get dirty.

#### 5. Learn from mistakes together

If an experiment goes wrong, take advantage and investigate with your child to see what went wrong. A mistake can lead to all kinds of possibilities and it provides opportunities for you and your child to refine your ideas, understanding, and hypotheses.

#### 6. Invite curiosity

Observations and questions can create a climate of discovery – key to scientific learning. Let your child ask their own questions but you can also stimulate curiosity. For instance, when seeing a rubber duck float in the water during bath time, invite them to think by saying, "I wonder if the soap will also float?" See what questions they ask and what experiments they try.

#### 7. Encourage children to record their observations

When you notice your child is interested in something (like the moon, leaves changing on the trees, or the growth of a plant) you can suggest ways for them to record what they have observed. "Do you want to draw that?" or "Do you want to take photos?" or "Do you want me to help you write down what you noticed?"

#### 8. Make good use of your electronic devices

Take pictures of a stunning butterfly, record frog sounds, use a website or app to learn more about a specific phenomenon or creature.

By Yi-Chin Lan, adapted from [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

# Kindergarten

## Checklist

### Science, Technology, Art

- Explores dance and movement concepts
- Explores the visual arts
- Explores drama through actions and language
- Demonstrates knowledge of characteristics of living things (pretends to feed a baby doll or animal, puts baby doll to sleep, etc.)
- Understands physical properties of objects (heavy, light, rough, smooth)
- Demonstrates knowledge of Earth's environment (seasons, weather, day and night)
- Demonstrates scientific inquiry skills (observing, planning, predicting, sharing ideas about what happened, using tools such as magnifying glasses, rulers, scales to make observations)

## Explore Science and the Arts!

Midland has many FREE opportunities for you and your child to explore science and the arts. Check out some of the events happening this spring! (See page 7 for a full list and details.)

#### 4/13/18 LEGO @ the Library

**10:30AM-12PM (all ages)**

Drop by the Story Room to create an AWESOME masterpiece with our collection of LEGO bricks and mini-figures! We'll have LEGOs for big builders and DUPLOs for little ones!

Dow Library 1710 W St Andrews Rd, Midland

#### SATURDAYS/SUNDAYS in MARCH

**An Afternoon at the Sugar House, 1PM-4PM FREE (all ages, under 18 w/ adult)**

Discover the magic of maple syrup season as you experience the process from start to finish. Visitors are invited to peek in buckets on tapped trees, watch the steam rise in the sugarhouse and learn how to change maple sap into sweet maple syrup.

# Free & Low Cost Community Events

## Reoccurring Monthly Activities...

### Barnes & Noble STORY TIME

**Mondays @ 7PM Wednesdays @ 11AM**

**Saturdays @ 11AM**

Barnes and Noble at Midland Mall

### Tiny Tots Storytime\*

**WED 3/20/19 10AM & 11AM (ages 0-23 mos)**

**WED 4/10, 4/17, & 4/24 10AM-11AM**

Stories, songs, and rhymes to encourage bonding between parents and children. **\*Pick up a ticket at the Youth Services desk up to 30 minutes prior to the program to reserve your place.**

Dow Library 1710 W St Andrews Rd, Midland

### Little Midland, Indoor play city (ages 0-6 years)

**\$4/child, under 1yr free**

**M/TH:10:30AM-12:30PM, T: 4:30PM-6:30PM,**

**SAT hours vary 2x/month**

Kid-sized city, giant-sized imagination! Visit

Facebook: Little Midland for more information

The Loft @ Ashman Plaza 713 Ashman St, Midland

## March

### SATURDAYS/SUNDAYS in MARCH

**An Afternoon at the Sugar House, FREE**

**1PM-4PM (all ages, under 18 w/ adult)**

Discover the magic of maple syrup season as you experience the process from start to finish.

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd Midland

### Storytime Yoga for TWO\*

**TUE 3/19/19 @ 11AM (ages 3-5, w/ caregiver)**

Introduce your little ones to yoga in an engaging story time adventure! Wear comfortable clothes for moving and bring a yoga mat or bath size towel.

**\*Registration is required.**

Dow Library 1710 W St Andrews, Midland

### Canvas & Canines\*

**TUE 3/19/19 @ 4:15 & 6PM (grades K-3)**

Join us for a story about dogs, a painting craft and a yummy cupcake. What can be more fun?

**\*Registration is required.**

Dow Library 1710 W St Andrews Rd, Midland

### Story Hour: Spring Thaw

**THU 3/21/19 9:30AM & 11AM (ages 3-5)**

Includes story, crafts, and other activities

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd Midland

### Family Fun Night\*

**FRI 3/22/19 6:30PM. (all ages)**

Meet Carbon the standard poodle, and her owner Wendy and learn about agility training, plus a dog-themed story and craft. **\*Registration is required.**

Dow Library 1710 W St Andrews Rd, Midland

### Escape This Bookstore! Event

**SAT 3/23/19 2:00 PM (all ages)**

Join us as we explore the exciting new Escape This Book! Series. Decide your destiny by solving puzzles and riddles to pass each challenge and get to the next adventure! Barnes & Noble @ Midland Mall

### Spring Break Exploration Days

**3/23/19 - 4/1/19 MON-SAT 8AM-5PM and**

**SUN 12PM-5PM FREE (all ages)**

Enjoy your break from school while exploring this indoor program. Experiments, fun facts, crafts and scavenger hunts are just a few of the types of activities you'll find.

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd, Midland

### Crafty Kids: Dog Crafts

**MON-FRI 3/25/19 - 3/29/19 11AM - 2PM (all ages)**

Stop by the Maker Space for drop-in crafts celebrating man's best friend! Supplies and directions will be available for a different craft each day. Younger kiddos can be assisted by a caregiver.

Dow Library 1710 W St Andrews Rd, Midland

## April

### Story Hour: Are Trees Alive

**THU 4/4/19 9:30AM & 11AM (ages 3-5)**

Includes story, crafts, and other activities

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd Midland

### Move & Groove\*

**TUESDAYS 4/9 & 4/16 10AM & 11AM (ages 2-6)**

Build active bodies and active minds! Movement helps young children develop thinking skills, directional skills, and self-confidence. Drop in to dance to fun action songs and movement activities!

**\*Pick up a ticket at the Youth Services Desk up to 30 min prior to the program to reserve your place.**

Dow Library 1710 W St Andrews Rd, Midland

### Grace's Teddy Bear Tea\*

**THU 4/11/19 6:30PM & 7:30PM (ages 5-9)**

Help us celebrate the 150th birthday of our library's namesake, Grace A. Dow, with a teddy bear tea party, including treats, stories, games, and a "beary" special craft project. **\*Registration is required.**

Dow Library 1710 W St Andrews, Midland

### Wee Stroll

**FRI 4/12/19 9:30AM-10:30AM**

**(6mos-2yrs w/ adult)**

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd

### LEGO at the Library

**SAT 4/13/19 10:30AM - 12PM. (all ages)**

Drop by the Story Room to create a masterpiece with our collection of LEGO bricks and mini-figures! LEGOs for big builders and DUPLOs for little ones!

Dow Library 1710 W St Andrews, Midland

### Downtown Story Days

**SAT 4/13/19 12PM-4PM. (all ages)**

Head downtown Midland to visit your favorite stores and hear Super Hero stories! Participating businesses will create a cozy space to perform a dramatic reading of a select super hero picture book. Visit [www.downtownmidland.com](http://www.downtownmidland.com) for a schedule.

### Story Hour: The Salamander

**THU 4/18/19 9:30AM & 11AM (ages 3-5)**

Includes story, crafts, and other activities

### Families in Nature: Vernal Pools

**SAT 4/13/19 2PM-3PM FREE, all ages**

Come explore spring woodland pools using dippers and nets. We will try to find the frogs, salamanders, fairy shrimp and other aquatic invertebrates that call the vernal pools home.

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd, Midland

### Ready to Read Storytime\*

**TUE 4/23/19 10AM & 11AM (all ages)**

Talk, sing, read, write, and play at the Library! Join us for fun songs, action rhymes, stories, and flannel board activities designed to build early literacy skills. **\*Pick up a ticket at the Youth Services Desk up to 30 minutes prior to the program to reserve your place.**

Dow Library 1710 W St Andrews Rd, Midland

### Family Fun: FORTS & the Library

**FRI 4/26/19 6:30PM (ages 2-9)**

Join us for fabulous fort making in the Youth Services area! We'll provide the sheets for you to create your own structure; you bring the creativity! Carve out your own private space or collaborate with others to make a village!

Dow Library 1710 W St Andrews Rd, Midland

### Spring at the Wigwam

**SUN 4/28/19 2PM-4PM FREE, all ages**

Join us for an afternoon at the wigwam (near the Visitor Center) to explore how Woodland Indians used local plants and animals to thrive in their environment. We'll focus on tools used to make various vessels such as pots, baskets and nets.

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour, Midland

## May

### 5/2/18 Great Start Day @ The Saginaw Zoo

**FREE admission 2:00PM-6:00PM**

carousel & train rides \$1/person

1730 S Washington Ave, Saginaw, MI 48601

### Story Hour: The Secret Pool

**THU 5/2/19 9:30AM & 11AM (ages 3-5)**

Includes story, crafts, and other activities

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour, Midland

### FARMERS MARKET Opening Day!

**SATS & WEDS starting 5/4/19 7AM-1PM**

111 W Main St, Midland

### Families in Nature: All About Birds

**SAT 5/11/19 2PM-3PM FREE, all ages**

Flex your wings this month as we learn about different kinds of birds and their songs and nests. We'll play migration games, then spend time looking (and listening) for our avian friends.

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour, Midland