

Midland County Family Activity Guide



Summer 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 Summer 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

ACTIVITIES THAT GET YOU ON THE MOVE!

The Floor is LAVA:

A classic activity that doesn't get enough credit. Enjoy this on any day when boredom strikes. Use your imagination to navigate on couches, beds, or pillows as "safe zones" and pretend you can't touch the floor!

Hop Skip & Jump:

Set up paper plates around the house or outside and have them jump from one to the next. If you have different color plates, there's lots of options!

String Scavenger Hunt:

String some string around the room, through chairs and set up treasures along the way to find! Have them follow it through, going in and out, under and over to see what they can find!

A Big Maze:

Either use painters tape inside or sidewalk chalk outside and make a huge maze for the kids to drive or walk through!

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: Guacomole

Serves 8 - 1/4 cup per serving

Ingredients:

- 1/4 red onion
- 1 medium clove garlic
- 2 plum tomatoes
- 1 medium lime
- 2 medium, ripe avocados
- 1/4 teaspoon salt



Optional Ingredients:

- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro leaves

1. Peel onion and garlic clove. Rinse tomatoes.
2. If using, rinse cilantro. Pluck leaves from stems. Tear them into small pieces or mince them with a knife.
3. Mince onion and garlic. Dice tomatoes into 1/4-inch pieces.
4. Rinse lime and cut in half. In a medium bowl, squeeze juice from each half. Discard seeds.
5. Cut avocados in half by slicing them around length-wise. Gently twist and pull apart. Remove pits. Using a large spoon, scoop out flesh and add to bowl with juice.
6. Add salt to avocado. If using cumin, add now. Mash with a fork.
7. Add onion, garlic, and tomatoes to avocado mixture. If using cilantro, add now. Stir well.

Chef Notes:

Serve as a dip with corn tortilla chips, whole grain pita wedges, or fresh veggies. Add 1/4 cup serving of carrot sticks, broccoli florets, celery sticks, jicama sticks, or turnip sticks to have a full veggie component for snack.

MSU Extensions: Cooking Matters



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Cooking matters is a free 6 week class that offers 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

Current Cooking Matters classes continue this fall. For more information, please visit

www.greatstartmidland.org or like us on Facebook at Midland County Great Start Collaborative.

Get Out and Explore!

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

**Midland Area Farmers Market
Wednesdays & Saturdays 7AM-1PM**

**Touch A Truck Day!
Wednesday, July 24th, 9:30AM - 11:30AM
Midland Library Parking lot**





Home Connection

The Lending Library Summer Spotlight

CAMPING 1



It's finally summer so let's go camping...right at home! The Lending Library has many themed activity tubs designed to help you reinforce learning concepts with children of all ages. Featured this season is the CAMPING 1 tub. This activity tub is a fun way to introduce your preschooler to "camp life." Cook a fish dinner in the frying pan over the fire log, and follow it up with some toasted marshmallows for dessert. Go for a nature hike with your backpack and flashlight, and use the bug net and bug habitat to catch some critters along the way. Finally, roll out the sleeping bag and crawl in the tent to complete the camping experience. The CAMPING 1 tub also has a variety of camp themed books that would be perfect to read while lounging in the tent! There is so much fun in store with this tub!

Consider checking out these and other Lending Library activity tubs this season and keep the learning happening all summer 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



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.

Tunes by the Tridge

Thursday evenings June 13th - August 15th

Downtown Midland by the Tridge

Move & Groove

Dow Memorial Library

Little Midland - play area 0-6 years (\$4/child)

MON & THU @ 10:30AM-12:30PM

The Loft @ Ashman Plaza





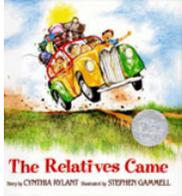
Home Connection

Books about warm weather FUN!

Looking for a way to talk with your child about warm weather? Heat up your day with these stories and warm weather activities!

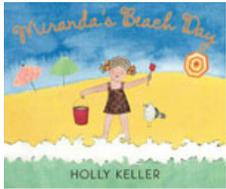
The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant. Illus. by Stephen Gammell.

Each summer, the relatives from Virginia come for a visit. For weeks, the family spends all their time together, and when the relatives return home, everyone dreams about next summer's get-together. This story shares the love, laughter, and hugs in a large family reunion.



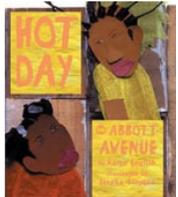
Miranda's Beach Day by Holly Keller

A mother and daughter spend a day at the beach watching seagulls, finding a crab, playing in the sand, and making new friends. When the day ends, the mother reassures her daughter that just as the crab belongs to the ocean, so the daughter belongs to her.



Hot Day on Abbott Avenue by Karen English. Illus. by Javaka Steptoe

It is a hot, hot day when Kishi and Renée get mad at each other and stop being friends. Their neighbors come up with tasks to get the two girls to work together, but the girls won't budge. Finally, jump rope rhymes and an ice cream truck save the day—and the friendship.



Try This:

Note similarities and differences. Using these books as a starting point, ask your child how they think summer looks in different places. What is summer like in the city, in the country, at the beach, in the forest? After exchanging ideas, ask them to find similarities among the locations. With a younger child, talk about what summer looks like where you live—"We have a sprinkler at the park we go to when it's hot," "We visit grandma at the lake."

Map it out. Grab a local or US map and mark where you will be enjoying your next family adventure. Is it a short trip to a neighboring town, a walk to the park, or an airplane flight across the country? For the local map, make icons or special markers for the types of places you can visit—nature preserves, museums, parks, swimming pools, a cousin's house. For a US map, talk about where your family will travel and what mode of transportation you will use.

Create a warm weather scene. Examine the illustrations in each book. Then join your child in making a warm weather scene using paint or collage. Pictures can show the city, the beach, the mountains, or any other location. Include favorite warm weather activities, seasonal foods, or special visitors.



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 Learning 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 Tot Stories
Wednesdays, June & July
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

Preschoolers

are natural mathematicians!

Preschoolers aren't yet ready to memorize multiplication tables, but that doesn't mean they cannot learn and explore math concepts they will use when they move on to primary school. Try these ideas at home to help your preschooler explore math.

◆ Offer containers filled with small treasures

Think of lids, buttons, shells, beads, pieces of ribbon, pinecones, acorns, and similar items as the tools of math learning. Preschoolers will naturally sort them by size, color, and shape; they will count and compare collections; and they will talk about what they are doing and why—especially if a grown-up joins in. I saw you examine each button before placing some of them in the blue bowl. What were you looking at?

◆ Talk about math

Include math talk when cooking, playing at the park, and at bedtime. Our family has five people eating dinner. How many ears of corn should we shuck? How many times do you want me to push you in the swing? We can read three books together before turning out the light. You can choose three books from the shelf.

◆ Measure things

Preschoolers enjoy using measuring tools, like rulers and tape measures, and creative items, like shoes and plastic chains. Ask questions that invite your child to measure something. How wide is your bed? How tall is our dog? How many shoes long is the carpet?

◆ Build together

Make buildings from wooden blocks, Legos, a collection of recycled items, or shoe boxes with the tops taped shut. Try masking tape to hold the structures together. Talk about shapes, sizes, widths, and heights as you build. Then get out the tools and take some measurements. How did you make the building so high? How wide is the bottom of the structure?



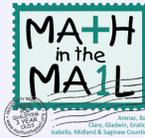
Adapted from www.naeyc.com

Kindergarten

⊕ Checklist ¹₂ ³

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
- 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

Marbled Milk Paper



The combination of science and art makes Marbled Milk Paper a fantastic hands-on STEAM activity.

Supplies Needed:

- Almond Milk
- Watercolor Paper
- Dish soap
- Q-tips or toothpicks
- Food Coloring or Liquid Watercolors
- Eye Droppers (if using liquid watercolors)
- Tray/Shallow Dish

Directions:

1. Cut your watercolor paper to a size that easily fits within your tray. Place the stack of paper near your tray; once you start swirling the colors you will have to work quickly to get the best effects.
2. Pour enough almond milk into a tray to make a thin layer of milk that covers the bottom of your tray.
3. Add in drops of food coloring around the milk.
4. Add a couple dollops of dish soap around the tray. The soap and food coloring will now start interacting.
5. Using a q-tip or toothpick, begin swirling the colors.
6. Before the colors get too mixed up take a sheet of paper and lay it on top of the milk mixture. Press down. Gently lift it, set aside to dry, and continue with additional sheets.
7. Let everything dry completely.

Adapted from www.babbledabbledo.com

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.)

Block Party @ the Library

Saturday 7/6/19 10:30AM-12:00PM (ages 4+)

Challenge your imagination and build just about anything with our huge assortment of building blocks.
Grace A. Dow Library Story Room

Meet the Bees

Wednesday 6/19/19, 11AM-12PM & 2PM-3PM

all ages FREE, under 18 w/adult

Chippewa Nature Center

Turtle Time

Wednesday 6/26/19, 3:30PM-4:30PM

Stop by and visit CNC's turtles!

Chippewa Nature Center

Free & Low Cost Community Events

Weekly June/July Activities

(these activities run all summer long!)

MIDLAND FARMERS MARKET

Wednesdays & Saturdays – 7:00AM-1:00PM

Shop fresh local produce, plants, and other goodies all summer long!

Downtown Midland, end of Ashman Street
Behind The H Hotel, Tridge parking lot

Homestead Sundays

June-August, 1PM-5PM

Enjoy a family-friendly afternoon at the Homestead Farm and Log Schoolhouse. Weekly themed activities and tours available.

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd Midland

Story Time at Barnes & Noble

Mondays @ 7PM, Wednesdays @ 11AM and Saturdays at 11AM

Barnes and Noble at Midland Mall
6800 Eastman Ave, Midland, MI 48642

Crafty Thursdays (all ages)

THURSDAYS, starting 6/13, 11AM-7PM

Join us for drop-in crafts. Put your creative skills to the test and make a craft each week. (Not available Thursday July 4th)

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, 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

Thursdays, Tunes by the Tridge

June 13th– August 15th (FREE for all ages)

Bring quilts and lawn chairs on Thursday evenings and enjoy listening to bands perform from 7 - 9 p.m. Food vendors will be on site.

June

Going Geocaching

Saturday 6/1/19 10:00AM-2:00PM

All ages w/ adult, FREE

Join the world's largest scavenger hunt as you work at your own pace to conquer as many of the geocache series as you desire!

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd

Story Hour: Around the Pond -- Who's Here?

Thursday 6/6/19 9:30AM & 11:00AM

(FREE, ages 3-5 w/ adult)

Includes story, crafts, and other activities

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd

Summer Reading Kickoff!

Thursday 6/7/19, 6PM-8PM

Earn coupons for local treats and activities!

Grace A. Dow Memorial Library

1710 W St Andrews Rd, Midland, MI 48640

Families in Nature: Pollywogs and Frogs

6/8/19 @ 2:00PM-3:00PM, All ages w/ adult, FREE

Using dippers and nets we will try to catch tadpoles, pollywogs, and frogs!

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd Midland

Move & Groove Galaxy*

Tuesday 6/11/19, 10AM & 11AM (ages 2-6)

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

Tiny Tots Twinkle Stars*

Wednesdays 6/12 & 6/19,

10AM & 11AM (ages 0-23mos)

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

Dow Library Story Room, 1710 W St Andrews Rd

6/12/19 – 6/24/19

Summer Exploration Days: Geology

Mon-Sat 8AM-5PM, Sun 12PM-5PM

Experiments, games, crafts & more!

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd Midland

Wee Stroll

Friday 6/14/19, 11AM-9:30AM-10:30AM

(ages 6mos-2years)

Take a guided walk with your child and learn about the outdoors.

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd Midland

Storytime Yoga for Two with Well-Bean*

Tuesday 6/18/19 @ 10AM & 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

Meet the Bees

Wednesday 6/19/19, 11AM-12PM & 2PM-3PM

all ages FREE, under 18 w/adult

Learn about honeybees and beekeeping practices, plus crafts and games.

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd Midland

Story Hour: How to Hide a Butterfly

Thursday 6/20/19 9:30AM & 11:00AM

(FREE, ages 3-5 w/ adult)

Includes story, crafts, and other activities

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd Midland

Celebrate the Summer Solstice

Friday 6/21/19, 7PM-8:30PM

all ages FREE, under 18 w/adult

The Summer Solstice is the longest day of the year and the first day of summer – come celebrate with s'mores around a campfire!

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd Midland

Celestial Circle Time*

Tuesdays 6/25/19, 10AM & 11AM (ages 2-3)

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

Dow Library Story Room, 1710 W St Andrews Rd

Cosmic Kids Storytime*

Thursday 6/27/19, 2PM (ages 4-5)

*Registration is required.

Dow Library, 1710 W St Andrews Rd, Midland

6/26/19 – 7/8/19

Summer Exploration Days: Plants & Fungi

Mon-Sat 8AM-5PM, Sun 12PM-5PM

Experiments, games, crafts & more!

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd

Turtle Time

Wednesday 6/26/19, 3:30PM-4:30PM

all ages FREE, under 18 w/adult

Stop by and visit CNC's turtles!

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd

July

Move & Groove Galaxy*

Tuesday 7/2/19, 10AM & 11AM (ages 2-6)

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

Block Party @ the Library

Saturday 7/6/19 10:30AM-12:00PM (ages 4+)

Clock Party @ the Library

Saturday 7/6/19 10:30AM-12:00PM (ages 4+)

Challenge your imagination and build just about anything with our huge assortment of building blocks.

Dow Library Story Room, 1710 W St Andrews Rd

Celestial Circle Time*

Tuesdays 7/9/19, 10AM & 11AM (ages 2-3)

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

Dow Library Story Room, 1710 W St Andrews Rd

Tiny Tots Twinkle Stars*

Wednesdays 7/10 & 7/17, 10AM & 11AM

(ages 0-23mos)

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

Dow Library Story Room, 1710 W St Andrews Rd

Cosmic Kids Storytime*

Thursday 7/11/19, 2PM (ages 4-5)

*Registration is required.

Dow Library, 1710 W St Andrews Rd, Midland

Touch a Truck Day

Wednesday 7/24/19 9:30AM-11:30AM

Your little truck lovers will get the chance to climb aboard the City's heavy-duty work vehicles, the big red fire truck, and several sleek police vehicles!

Dow Library Parking Lot, 1710 W St Andrews Rd
(rain out date: Thu, July 25, 9:30-11:30AM)

These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education and Great Start Parent Coalition