



110 W. Adams St., P.O. Box 647
Platteville, WI 53818
608-348-2846
staff.familyconnections@gmail.com
familyconnectionsswwi.org
www.facebook.com/familyconnectionsswwi

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00-4:00
Resource Room open 9:00-3:00 Monday-Thursday
Open Saturday Upon Request

SPRING 2022



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Family Connections Staff

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Ellen Volgarino

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FAMILY CONNECTIONS
of Southwest Wisconsin
is hosting

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

Darlington
March 8 - April 12 - May 10
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
basement of Our Lady of Fatima
104 E Harriet St

Platteville
March 24 - April 21 - May 24
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
O.E. Gray Building
110 W. Adams St

March


April


May


Story - Craft - Snack - Activity




GIVEAWAY! for the first 10 families who attend each event!
All ages welcome with parent/guardian
Questions? Call 608-348-2846 or email staff.familyconnections@gmail.com

We have had so much fun
and made many *new* friends
at Play and Learn these past few months!



New Grant Awarded

We have been awarded a grant from  to provide concrete supports to families and to help parents build social connections. These funds will be used to provide car seats to area families as well as to replenish our center's lending equipment, diapers, and community closet.





Updates from Family Connections



Please stay connected with our Facebook page for updates or program changes!

PARENT/CHILD MAKE AND TAKE

JOIN US
for a craft
project!



FREE event, all supplies provided

When: First Saturday of the month - March 5, April 2, May 7

Time: 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Location: Family Connections Resource Room

Registration Required

Details of each month's craft theme and a sign up form will be posted on our website's calendar and in an event on Facebook.



"Smaller Community
Helping The Larger
Community"

Community Partner
Highlight:



Platteville Thrift Shop not only supports Family Connections financially, but they also provide free vouchers for families in need to shop at no cost. Help support their mission by donating quality items and by being a regular customer!

Hours: 9-5 Mon thru Fri; 9-4 Sat

950 S. Lancaster St., Platteville

(608) 348-7947

facebook.com/plattevillethriftshop

Want to make a difference in your community?



Open Positions on the Board of Directors

Serving on the board is an instrumental way to get involved in the mission of Family Connections!

If you have questions about this opportunity, please email staff.familyconnections@gmail.com.

Family Connections' Wish List

- Walmart or Aldi Gift Cards
- Laundry detergent or pods
 - small quantities preferred
- Diaper rash cream
- Baby wash
- Feminine products
- Baby lotion/eczema cream
 - preferably unscented
- Nonperishable snacks
 - nut free please
- size 4T/5T pull ups
- Or...Your Time!!!

For more information regarding volunteer opportunities, please call 608-348-2846.

Your donations are greatly appreciated!

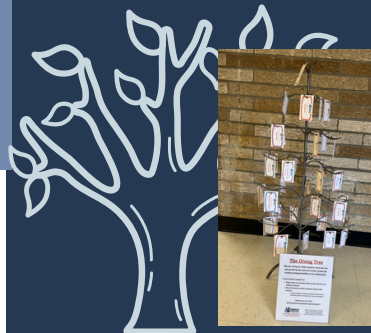


Thank you for assisting us in helping local families!



Giving Tree

Would you consider helping us keep our Community Closet stocked? Let us know if you or someone you know would be willing to host our Giving Tree at their business!

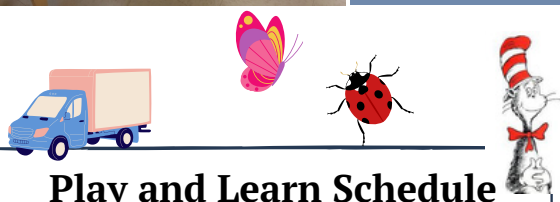


In Case You Missed It: Good Vibes Nutrition and Pioneer Nutrition hosted a Giving Tree on our behalf just before the holidays. Look at all these items we have been able to provide to those in need in our community!





Play and Learn Meets
Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00
All families are welcome to join the fun!
Bring your little ones to engage in active play,
story time, and an art activity.
Please call 608-348-2846 or reply
to the Facebook event to reserve your spot.
We look forward to seeing you!



Play and Learn Schedule

March 3 Dr. Seuss
March 10 Transportation
March 17 No Play and Learn
(Platteville Schools Spring Break)
March 24 Happy Spring!
March 31 Dinosaurs

April 7 April Showers
April 14 Easter
April 21 Earth Day
April 28 May Day

May 5 Seeds and Dirt
May 12 Make Mom's Day
May 19 In Bloom
May 26 Bugs & Butterflies



Simple Dirt cake

1 pkg Oreos crushed
8 oz cool whip
1 pkg cream cheese
Large box instant vanilla pudding
3 Cups milk

Mix pudding, softened cream cheese, and milk. Mix in cool whip. Layer between crushed Oreos. Refrigerate. Enjoy. Gummy worms on top make a nice addition. 😊

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/00/10/58/0010580307bb5d050f5375e575e4e6a7.jpg>



"Childhood is about playing, discovery and believing in dreams. The imagination and possibilities are endless."



SPRING Bucket List

- ☐ Fly a kite
- ☐ Decorate Easter eggs
- ☐ Go on a bike ride
- ☐ Have a picnic
- ☐ Catch butterflies
- ☐ Make a rain gauge
- ☐ Plant some flowers
- ☐ Feed ducks
- ☐ Make a mud pie
- ☐ Shop at a farmer's market
- ☐ Find a rainbow
- ☐ Dance in the rain
- ☐ Create sidewalk art with chalk
- ☐ Go berry picking
- ☐ Blow bubbles
- ☐ Take outdoor family pictures
- ☐ Play miniature golf
- ☐ Watch the sunset
- ☐ Visit the zoo
- ☐ Stargaze in the backyard
- ☐ Make a bird feeder
- ☐ Go fishing
- ☐ Pick wildflowers
- ☐ Have a bonfire
- ☐ Shop garage sales
- ☐ Play an outdoor game
- ☐ Skip rocks
- ☐ Find a ladybug
- ☐ Go on a hike
- ☐ Have a tea party
- ☐ Splash in puddles
- ☐ Spot a rainbow
- ☐ Walk barefoot in the grass
- ☐ Play frisbee
- ☐ Find a four-leaf clover
- ☐ Make a flower necklace
- ☐ Play at the park

Stay Connected

Remember our Play and Learn room is open for your use Monday - Thursday between 9 and 3. Just call ahead!



Strengthening Families and Support

Family Strengths Spotlight



Provide Positive Messages

from <https://fiveforfamilies.org/the-5-strengths/helping-kids-understand-feelings/>

Children need to hear positive messages from you *every day*. Encouraging words and gestures promote good behaviors and teach kids how to treat others with kindness. When it comes to positive messages, how you say it is as important as what you are saying.

Share your feelings: Focus on the things you enjoy about your child rather than their accomplishments. Write a note that says, "I love you," offer a spontaneous hug or say you enjoy being with them.

Observe and comment: Show up. Give your attention. Focus on the effort rather than the result. Acknowledge accomplishments by stating what you see: "You did it ... you tied your shoes!"

Limit praise: Telling your child they did a "great job" or that you are proud of them too often can actually take away their sense of personal accomplishment.

Reinforce the good: Call out specific positive behaviors that you would like your child to repeat: "Thank you for setting the table."



**For ideas to explore feelings with:
Activities - Games - Books - Crafts**

use the web link above and scroll down to the "Take Action" heading



Helping Kids Understand Feelings

Showing your kids how to name, understand and manage emotions.

When you help your children understand feelings, they feel **safe** and **valued** and develop the **confidence** to solve their own problems. You may even spend less time managing misbehavior. Children who learn how to express and manage their emotions often **do better in school** and **have stronger friendships**. These "social and emotional competence skills" also shape how they treat others and deal with challenges as adults.

<https://fiveforfamilies.org/the-5-strengths/helping-kids-understand-feelings/>
(word emphasis added)

Helping Kids Understand Feelings can look like...



Teaching kids to share

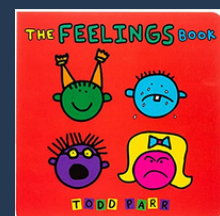
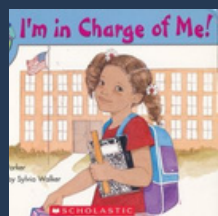
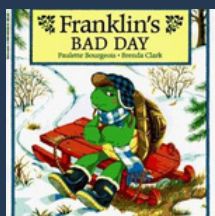
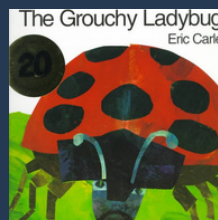
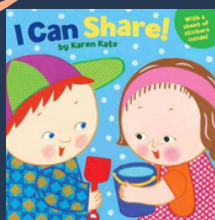


Encouraging kids to solve problems



Listening when kids express their emotions

Books to explore feelings:



Strengthening Families and Support

To Keep Your Family Strong...



Remember the 5 Strengths



© 2018 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board | Special thanks to the Michigan parents who created this concept.



Things we model for our kids, whether we realize it or not...

@mombrain.therapist



Behind every young child who believes in himself is a parent who believed first.

Matthew Jacobsen



**FAMILY
CONNECTIONS**
of Southwest Wisconsin

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Please consider supporting Family Connections of SW WI

Family Connections is a non-profit organization funded 100% by grants and private donations.

Make a donation

Make checks payable to:
Family Connections of SW WI
P.O. Box 647, Platteville, WI 53818



Earn money for us while you shop!



Visit shopwithscrip.com

Enrollment code: MV2S9PBQJ7EY



You shop. Amazon gives.

Choose "Family Connections of Southwest Wisconsin" as your organization to support!



Play and Learn

Every Thursday 9:30-11:00am

No Play and Learn 3/17 due to Platteville Spring Break

All families are welcome to join in the fun!

Bring your little ones for a morning of active play, story time, and an art activity. Call or reply on Facebook to reserve a spot



Board of Directors

Diana Arians
Nathan Curry
Casey Gradel

Kari Lopez
Cyndi Reuter
Julie Soja

**We are looking for additional
board members!**

**Contact us if you are interested or
would like more information**



Stay connected with us to
get all the details on what
we're up to...

Follow us on

and visit our website

familyconnectionsswwi.org

**Thank you to the
following agencies
for their support:**



platteville community fund

Platteville Thrift Shop

