



1065 Lancaster Street, P.O. Box 647
 Platteville, WI 53818
 608-348-2846
 staff.familyconnections@gmail.com
 https://familyconnectionswwi.org
 www.facebook.com/familyconnectionswwi

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

WINTER 2022/2023



IN THIS ISSUE:

page

- 2 Family Connections Updates
- 3 Play and Learn Newsletter
- 4-5 Strengthening Families & Support
- 6 Reminders

Family Connections Staff

Renee Krahenbuhl

Executive Director

reneek.familyconnections@gmail.com

Ellen Volgarino

Assistant Director

ellen.familyconnections@gmail.com

Annie Cox

Parent Educator

annie.familyconnections@gmail.com

Angela Kamps

Parent Leader

angelak.familyconnections@gmail.com

Family Connections has moved!

Our new address is:
1065 Lancaster St
Platteville, WI 53818

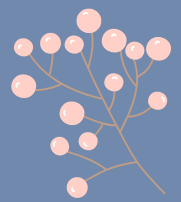
Our agency is located in the lower level of Platteville United Methodist Church (across from Platteville Thrift Shop)



Photo courtesy of Steve Prestegard

Renee is seen here on the evening of our Open House in front of our Community Closet.

Items from our Closet come from generous donations from our community.



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

Winter

Updates from Family Connections



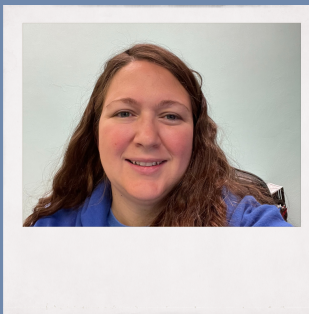
Thank you!!



Thank you to Platteville Community Fund, Community Fund of Darlington, Kunes Auto, Optimist International of Platteville and Darlington, Kwik Trip and our helpful volunteers for their generosity!

Welcome to our Staff Annie Cox

I am the new Parent Educator. I will be facilitating the Play & Learn events and upcoming parenting classes. I am the mother of 4 children ages 4 to 13 years old. I like to knit, read, cook, play piano, and am learning to paint. I'm excited to get to know you all!



Family Connections' Wish List

- Baby wipes
- Pull ups: 3T/4T, 4T/5T
- Size 7 diapers
- Baby wash , lotion, eczema cream
- Feminine products
- Laundry detergent or pods
 - small quantities preferred
- Walmart & Aldi Gift Cards
 - \$20 or \$25 cards
- Gas cards ("fuel only")
 - \$25 preferred



Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Thank you for assisting us in helping local families!



Giving Tree



This December you can find our Giving Tree at:

Pioneer Nutrition

Good Vibes Nutrition

Stop in at these locations to grab a Donation Suggestion Ornament. Your donation can be dropped off at either location or the Family Connections office.



Join our **NEW** **Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)**

Open to parents, grandparents, and other caregivers! This committee provides Family Connections with input on designing programs and services that meet the needs of our 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.



All families are welcome to join the fun!
Bring your little ones to engage in active play,
story time, and an art activity.



Great news--We are growing!

To accommodate the increase in attendance, we
will hold two sessions of Play and Learn weekly.

For planning purposes as well as the safety and
enjoyment of all families, sign up is REQUIRED.

See below for details. 



Play and Learn Schedule

December

- 1 Mittens
- 8 Gingerbread
- 15 Pajama Day!
- 22 Holiday Cheer
- 29 No Play & Learn



January

- 5 Hibernation
- 12 Snowflakes
- 19 Arctic
- 26 Snowmen



February

- 2 Groundhog Day!
- 9 Be My Valentine!
- 16 Kindness
- 23 Smile



WHEN LITTLE
PEOPLE ARE
OVERWHELMED
BY BIG
EMOTIONS, IT'S
OUR JOB TO
SHARE OUR
CALM. NOT JOIN
THEIR CHAOS.
-L. R. KNOST



Play and Learn sessions:

Thu 9:00-10:15 a.m. Thu 10:30-11:45 a.m.

Please remember: SIGN UP IS REQUIRED

The Sign Up Genius link for that week's event will be made
available Monday mornings via Facebook or email
(if you are on our Play and Learn mailing list).

If you are unable to use the online sign up,
call 608-348-2846 to reserve your spot.

We look forward to seeing you!

Snow Ice Cream

<https://thesuburbansoapbox.com/make-snow-ice-cream/>



- 8 - 10 cups fresh snow
- 14 oz sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tsp vanilla



1. Stir together vanilla, sweetened condensed milk, and 8 cups of snow.
2. If needed, add a little more snow until you get ice cream consistency.
3. Top with your favorite toppings and eat right away.

Need a Space to Play?

Our Play and Learn room is open for
your use Monday - Wednesday
between 9 and 3. Just call ahead!





Strengthening Families and Support



Family Strengths Spotlight

Connecting with Others

Building a network of people who care about you and your family.



Connecting with Others can look like...

- Trying something new to make new friends
- Surrounding kids with supportive, caring adults
- Turning off your devices when it's time to connect

<https://fiveforfamilies.org/the-5-strengths/connecting-with-others/>

Places to Connect...

- Libraries
- Schools
- Family Resource Centers
- Community Centers
- Park Districts
- Swimming pools
- Faith communities
- Community events
- Parks
- Play groups

Being in the same place as other parents isn't necessarily enough to build a friendship. Taking that extra step to reach out makes all the difference in creating a connection. Ask someone you have met to go to a park or the library for a play date, so that parents and children get to know one another better. Sometimes you don't have to go anywhere to make a new friend. Take a new neighbor a treat, ask if they might like to carpool or share babysitting, invite them over or to a "child friendly" event.

For more information, please visit:
https://fiveforfamilies.org/wp-content/uploads/Connecting-with-Others.Final_v2-1.pdf



From a parent:

"Family Connections gave me a way to meet other moms. It's helpful to find people in the same situation and share ideas."



"Connection is why we're here. We are hardwired to connect with others, it's what gives purpose and meaning to our lives, and without it there is suffering."

-Brene Brown



Strengthening Families and Support

Remember the 5 Strengths



Connecting with Others

A lot of parents feel too busy or too overwhelmed to stay connected to the people and activities that bring their life balance, let alone make new friends. However, building a network of social connections is worth the extra effort. Talking things over with trusted friends or family can help you recharge and see problems in a new way. Feeling valued and understood, and knowing you can turn to others for advice or a helping hand can help you to be a happier and more confident parent.

<https://fiveforfamilies.org/the-5-strengths/connecting-with-others/>

...To Keep Your Family Strong



Young children are paying attention to the world around them every waking moment. They watch how their parents and caregivers talk, eat, react to situations and interact with others. You are your child's very first teacher!

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/young-children_learn_by_copying_you

“All children need a laptop. Not a computer, but a human laptop. Moms, Dads, Grannies and Grandpas, Aunts, Uncles - someone to hold them, read to them, teach them. Loved ones who will embrace them and pass on the experience, rituals and knowledge of a hundred previous generations. Loved ones who will pass to the next generation their expectations of them, their hopes, and their dreams.”

-Colin Powell



FAMILY CONNECTIONS
of Southwest Wisconsin

1065 Lancaster Street, P.O. Box 647
Platteville, WI 53818
608-348-2846

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



amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

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

Big News!

Family Connections has moved!

Our new address is:
**1065 Lancaster Street
Platteville, WI 53818**

CLOSED

Family Connections will be closed December 26th through January 2 for the winter holidays.

The first Thursday of every month we will close at 1:00pm to make room for Ruby's Pantry.

Board of Directors

Nathan Curry Cyndi Reuter
Casey Gradel Heather Ringberg
Kari Lopez Terry Wood

Happy Winter



We are looking for additional board members!

Contact us if you would like more information

Thank you to the following agencies for their support:



Platteville Thrift Shop

