



Auburn - Washburn

# EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER

## Important Dates

**October 5<sup>th</sup>** : Jay Shideler Picture Day  
**October 6<sup>th</sup>** : Auburn Picture Day  
**October 9<sup>th</sup>** : No school  
**October 15<sup>th</sup>** : No School (Parent-Teacher Conference)  
**October 16<sup>th</sup>** : No School  
**October 21**: No Early Childhood Classes (District Early Release)  
**October 26<sup>th</sup>** : Indian Hills Picture Retake



Spook-o-motive  
Preschool Zoo Time  
Community Story Time  
Preschool Story Time  
ABCmouse.com Book Flix  
Learning Through Play  
Child Care Aware  
Benefits Assistance  
One-on-One Walk-In assistance  
Parenting Resources  
Shawnee County Food Pantries  
Dolly Parton Imagination  
Library

## Fall Books & Songs

### Books

Leaf Man  
 Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn  
 The Color Monster  
 The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything  
 The Busy Little Squirrel

### Songs

Five Little Pumpkins  
 The Leaves Are Falling Down  
 The Skeleton Dance  
 Way Up High in the Apple Tree



## Early Learning At Home

- ★ Read together for 10-15 minutes
- ★ Practice counting while cooking or cleaning
- ★ Let children help sort laundry or toys
- ★ Talk about colors, shapes, and sizes
- ★ Encourage children to practice putting on coats and shoes independently

## Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are coming up on **October 14 and 15!** This is a great opportunity to connect with your child's teacher, discuss their progress, and celebrate their growth and learning. Please follow your child's building-specific sign-up guidelines to schedule your conference. We look forward to partnering with you to support your child's success! 🍂

### PTO:

**Pauline Central - October 6<sup>th</sup> 5:30**

**Indian Hills - November 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00**

**Jay Shideler - October 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00**

**Farley - October 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00**

**Farley PTO News**

Do you know a family in our district  
who has a **child** **who** **turned** **3**  
before August 31?

We have peer spots available at our  
**Farley and Pauline Central**  
Early Childhood Centers.



Please contact our Early Childhood Office  
**(785) 339-4675**  
for more information.



## **Gage Park Founders Fest & Topeka Zoo Celebration**

**Family event at Gage Park and the Topeka Zoo & Conservation Center**

**Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
9am-5pm**

**Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>  
9am-5pm**

Explore the schedule and offers  
**[HERE!](#)**



OCTOBER 3, 2026

FOOD TRUCKS  
GAMES  
GIVEAWAYS  
COMMUNITY RESOURCES  
I/DD PROGRAMS  
EMPLOYERS



and



### **Resource Fair & Family Fun Day**

**Community organizations will be available with information about programs and services, plus games, prizes, giveaways and food trucks.**

**October 3**

**10:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**

**WoodShed Event Center, 1901 N. Kansas Ave.**

123  
SESAME STREET

AND THE GREAT  
ELEPHANT ADVENTURE



# Elmo Visits the Library

**Sat, Oct 10** 10am-Noon  
Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library

KTWU  PBS

 TOPEKA &  
SHAWNEE COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

NATURE

Elmo is coming to Topeka!

SENT



HALLOWEEN  
COSTUME  
DONATION +  
GIVEAWAY



CHILD  
MENTAL  
WELLNESS  
FAIR



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**Halloween Costume Donation + Giveaway**  
**&**  
**Child Mental Wellness Fair**

**Saturday, October 10th, 2026**  
**9:00 am - 11:00 am**

**455 SE Golf Park Blvd., Topeka, KS**

*C5Alive Presents*

**4TH ANNUAL**

**TOPEKA**

# Fall Fest

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 10 AM - 3 PM  
AT REDBUD PARK & VETERANS PARK**

**IN**

**NOTO ARTS DISTRICT**

**Free  
Admission!**

**Volunteers  
Needed!**

**FAMILY FUN PRESENTED BY LOCAL BUSINESSES & NON-PROFITS**

- |                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Live music</li><li>• Craft &amp; vendor fair</li><li>• Food trucks</li><li>• Kids games &amp; activities</li><li>• Inflatables</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Petting zoo</li><li>• Face painting</li><li>• Gifts &amp; Décor</li><li>• Clothing &amp; accessories</li><li>• Non-profit information</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pet care services</li><li>• Carnival Games</li><li>• Cake Walk for kids</li><li>• Trunk or Treat</li><li>• Pumpkin decorating</li></ul> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR PRESENTED BY HEALTH & WELLNESS MAGAZINE**

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health screenings</li><li>• Safety instructions &amp; education</li><li>• Health &amp; Wellness products &amp; samples</li><li>• Health information &amp; education</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fitness information &amp; demonstrations</li><li>• Gymnastics &amp; Exercise demonstrations</li><li>• Personal Safety Items &amp; Education</li><li>• Emotional &amp; Mental Health Information</li></ul> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**100+ VENDORS & SPONSORS FOR OUR MARKET, HEALTH FAIR, FOOD COURT, MUSIC STAGE & KIDS GAMES!**



Find us on Facebook: Topeka Fall Fest, or email [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org)





# October 2026



| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Monday                                                                   | Tuesday                                                                  | Wednesday | Thursday                                                                | Friday | Saturday                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                          |                                                                          |           | 1                                                                       | 2      | 3                                                |
| <b>Legend:</b> ● Farley ● Pauline Central ● Evening Playgroup<br>Unless otherwise noted, morning playgroups are held Mondays and Tuesdays at Farley and Thursdays at Pauline Central from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Evening playgroups vary by time and location. |                                                                          |                                                                          |           | P.C. MORNING<br>PLAYGROUP 9:30-<br>10:30 A.M.                           |        |                                                  |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 5<br>NO PLAYGROUPS THIS<br>WEEK<br>(PAT STAFF TO NATIONAL<br>CONFERENCE) | 6                                                                        | 7         | 8                                                                       | 9      | 10<br>CARSEAT CHECK<br>EVENT @ PC<br>9 A.M.-NOON |
| 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 12<br>FARLEY MORNING<br>PLAYGROUP 9:30-<br>10:30 A.M.                    | 13<br>FARLEY MORNING<br>PLAYGROUP 9:30-<br>10:30 A.M.                    | 14        | 15<br>NO PLAYGROUP<br>(DISTRICT P/T<br>CONFERENCES)                     | 16     | 17                                               |
| 18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 19<br>FARLEY MORNING<br>PLAYGROUP 9:30-<br>10:30 A.M.                    | 20<br>FARLEY MORNING<br>PLAYGROUP 9:30-<br>10:30 A.M.                    | 21        | 22<br>P.C. EVENING<br>PLAYGROUP 5:30-<br>6:30 P.M.                      | 23     | 24                                               |
| 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 26<br>FARLEY MORNING<br>PLAYGROUP 9:30-<br>10:30 A.M.                    | 27<br>FARLEY EVENING<br>HALLOWEEN GROUP<br>CONNECTION 5:30-<br>6:30 P.M. | 28        | 29<br>P.C. MORNING<br>HALLOWEEN GROUP<br>CONNECTION 9:30-<br>10:30 A.M. | 30     | 31<br>                                           |

# Building Young Brains Starts with You!

## The Power of Learning through Relationships



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**vrom**™

### Peekaboo Many Ways!

6 MONTHS  
-2 YEARS

How many ways can you play “Peekaboo”? You can hide your eyes behind your hand, or use a hat, a napkin, or whatever is handy and then say “Peekaboo!” Help your child take a turn. What can they hide behind? Saying “I see you!” when one of you stops hiding should make you both laugh.

#### Brainy Background™

This back-and-forth game builds the connection between you and your child. As they watch your face and movements, your child is learning to trust that things (and people!) go away and come back. This is an important part of building relationships and becoming independent.

### Stomping Game

Does your child want to get up and move? Play a “Stomping Game!” Stomp your feet one, two, or three times and encourage your child to follow your lead. Pay attention to how they stomp and then imitate them. Take turns. They can follow your lead or you can follow theirs. Change the pace by stomping slowly or quickly. See if they can copy your rhythm.

#### Brainy Background™

Your child is building their brain when they imitate your actions and remember which movements to repeat. They have to remember the pattern and rhythm while moving too! This takes attention and focus. Together you’re building skills important for learning. It’s also a fun way to connect with each other.

18 MONTHS  
-3 YEARS

### Helping Hands

When you and your child are out running errands, look for neighborhood helpers. Ask, “Who helps us?” Do they see a store clerk, delivery person, or a firefighter? All of these people are neighborhood helpers! Chat with them about how each person helps your family. Then, talk back and forth about how you and your child help each other.

#### Brainy Background™

Moments like these help your child practice holding information in their mind. They’ll also see how it connects to their experience. These kinds of back-and-forth chats build their communication skills too.



Scan Here for  
*EveryoneHas What It Takes  
to Be a Brain Builder* video

Visit [WeAreBrainBuilders.org](http://WeAreBrainBuilders.org) for more information on brain-building resources to make the most of everyday moments with children.

# Building Young Brains Starts with You!

## The Power of Learning through Relationships



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0 Months  
-2 Years

### Love You

As you get your child ready for bed, gently touch them on their head, ears, and hands. As you touch each part, tell them, “Love your head. Love your ears. Love your hands. Love you.” Use a soft voice that helps relax both of you.

#### Brainy Background™

When your child feels your touch and hears your voice, they’re learning new sounds and words that will help them learn to communicate. Children learn best when they feel safe and secure. Your gentle touch and soft words will help give them these feelings.



2 Years  
-3 Years

### Smile and Wink

Smile at your child and then wink at them. Repeat it several times, then encourage them to try to copy you. The smile is easy, and their wink, which may be just crinkling their eyes, will make you smile again! Take turns. Count how many smiles and winks you share.

#### Brainy Background™

Playing “Smile and Wink” may seem simple, but it takes a great deal of skill for your child to pay attention to what you’re doing, remember the rules (first you smile, then wink), and copy what you’re doing. These are important skills for school and life.



3 Years  
- 5 Years

### The Love List

At dinner tonight, invite your child to take turns with you finishing the sentence “I love \_\_\_\_\_!” You can name anything. For example, a person, place, food, color, book, or even a song. End with a big “and I love you!”

#### Brainy Background™

Sharing what you love helps your child learn that people can have different thoughts and feelings. Another person might love something that they don’t and that’s okay. Learning to understand the feelings and emotions of others



Scan Here for  
BuildingBonds:Why Vroom

Visit [WeAreBrainBuilders.org](https://www.WeAreBrainBuilders.org) for more information on brain-building resources to make the most of everyday moments with children.

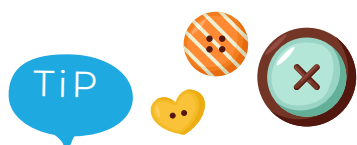
# At-homeTIPS to make the most of everyday moments with your preschooler



Powered by  
**vroom**™



Everyday routines with your preschooler can be more than “routine.” Whether it is mealtime, bedtime, or play time - turn everyday moments with your preschooler into valuable, brain-building moments.



## Clothing Count

Are you and your child both wearing clothes with buttons or pockets (or something else that's the same)? Together with your child, count the buttons/pockets on his/her clothes and on yours. What are the numbers? Who has more—you or your child? Count again to make sure!

### Brainy Background

Children learn what numbers mean through real-life experiences counting objects—not by memorizing number names. To find out which is more or less, help your child see actual quantities of things—like the number of fingers that represent the buttons or pocket. If you say the results out loud, it's easier to remember.



## Spice Rack Smells

While working in the kitchen, open up different spices. Smell the differences and even touch them with your child. You can describe these smells (using dramatic words) and talk back and forth with them about some of the foods that you eat with them.

### Brainy Background

Your child learns from their senses—from looking, listening, touching, and smelling. Spice Rack Smells pulls together all of these ways of learning and turns fixing a meal into a memorable way for them to have fun and to learn.



## Five Faves

Tonight at dinner, talk about favorites. “What is your favorite color (animal, food, place, book)?” You start and then let your child have a turn. Keep going back and forth until you each name five favorites!

### Brainy Background

When you talk about favorites, you're helping your child learn about a category of things—things they like. See if you can notice similarities in what they like (“you like adventures”). You're helping them learn to make connections in their thinking.





morning

## BREAKFAST

TiP



### The Big Game

Play The Big Game with your child at breakfast this morning. Name something big. Then ask them, "Can you name something that's bigger?" Take turns and keep playing until you come up with the biggest, most gigantic, huge thing you can think of. Switch it up and name the smallest thing you can think of.

#### Brainy Background

Playing The Big Game helps your child see connections between the size of things and organize them according to size. These are thinking skills they'll need in school and work.



afternoon

## CHORES

TiP



### Laundry Delivery

After folding the laundry, ask your child to help you with Laundry Delivery. "Where do the towels go? That's right, in the bathroom! What about your pajamas? Yes! In your room. Which drawer?" Switch and let them pick the items and ask you where they go.

#### Brainy Background

After folding the laundry, ask your child to help you with Laundry Delivery. "Where do the towels go? That's right, in the bathroom! What about your pajamas? Yes! In your room. Which drawer?" Switch and let them pick the items and ask you where they go.



evening

## ACTIVITY

TiP



### Build a Fort

Build a fort with your child out of pillows, blankets, and anything else you can think of. Talk with them about what you will build and make a plan. Ask them to help you figure out how to build it. Your fort can be a hideaway to pretend, dream, and imagine.

#### Brainy Background

When you ask your child to come up with an idea and figure out how to make it, they're learning to set goals and use critical thinking and reasoning skills. They're using their communication skills as they express themselves.



Visit [WeAreBrainBuilders.org](http://WeAreBrainBuilders.org) for more information on brain building tips to make the most of everyday moments with your preschooler.