



April 2022

The Play Times

Tip Sheet + Resources

Playtime staff and trained volunteers protect your children's rights to learn and play by partnering with shelters, schools, and other organizations across the Washington, D.C., region. We create bright, safe spaces with fun activities for children and give parents a break. Play reduces stress, increases confidence and resiliency, and contributes to healthy brain development.

Imagination Library

Get free books for your child from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library! The imagination Library gives children one book per month from birth to age 5. The monthly books follow themes that celebrate different events throughout the year. The Imagination Library is an official partner of the DC Public Library and gets books to over 34,000 children in DC! These books can be shipped directly to you and your child. To register online you will need your child's date of birth, an address and email account. The address will be where the books are sent, so this can be a place where you live or the home of a family member or friend. To register your child, visit the Imagination Library website at www.imaginationlibrary.com. If you have any questions, please email them to booksfrombirth@dc.gov.

DC Public Library Tutoring

DC Public Library now offers free, live, online tutoring for grades K-12 from 1 p.m. - 10 p.m. daily. Help is available in both English and Spanish. This program, Brainfuse HelpNow, has homework help in core subjects, a writing lab where students can get feedback, and study spaces for students to work with others. All of this is available at www.dclibrary.org/helpnow. To access these services, all you need is your DC library card! If you don't already have a library card, you may apply for one online at www.dclibrary.org/getacard so that you and your family can get started. The DC Library System's website also has free resources organized by different subjects to help teens with research. These resources are available at: www.dclibrary.org/teens/homework.



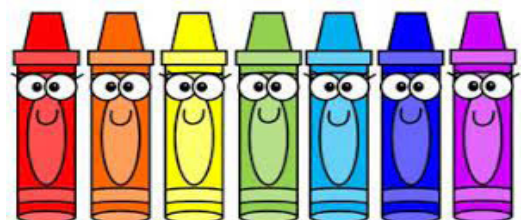
April Curriculum

Superheroes are coming to Playtime! This April, we are exploring children's strengths and superpowers with our superhero-themed curriculum activities. Throughout the month, we'll have activities focusing on Spider-Man, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and the Avengers. Look out for our Radioactive Calm Down Jars from Spider-Man and the Self-Affirmation Shields. Children will design their own superhero shields and explore their unique strengths, talents and sources of protection and support in their lives.

April Event Highlight

Coloring Fun Time!

- April 19, 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- Francis A. Gregory Neighborhood Library - 3660 Alabama Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20020
- Enjoy creating some cool art to help decorate the Children's Room!



Anti-Bullying Information

Parents and other adults can help kids prevent bullying by building a safe environment for kids to talk about their feelings and bullying experiences. Quick and consistent responses to bullying help support kids who are being bullied, and they show kids that bullying is not acceptable behavior. All kids can be impacted by bullying, and that impact can be very negative for those who are bullied, those who bully, and those who witness bullying. Some of those impacts include feelings of depression and anxiety, an increase in physical health complaints, and lower test scores and decreased participation in school. DCPS has a Bullying Prevention Policy to address issues of bullying in schools, but it's important for us all to do our part. Some tips for talking with your child about bullying include:

- Ask your child about bullying. Many kids won't bring up the topic on their own, but you starting the conversation will give them the space to discuss it.
- Regularly talk with your child about their day at school. This will help you identify any changes in your child's emotional state.
- Validate their feelings and listen without judgement. These conversations give an opportunity for you and your child to talk about what your child can do in future instances of bullying.
- If your child was bullied, talk with them about what will make them feel safer. Remind them that it isn't their fault and decide what to do next. That might include reaching out to your child's school or teacher.
- If your child bullied someone else, talk with them about what was going on when they did so and how they feel about it now. State that bullying is not okay and discuss how they can handle the situation better in the future.
- Stay calm and remember bullying is a behavior that can be changed. You can support your child as they move forward!
- Check out additional resources and tips at www.stopbullying.gov



DC Summer Camps

DPR Summer Camps typically fill up within the first 5 minutes registration opens on April 4. We recommend families look into summer school programs offered through DCPS plus the DPR "Boost" program offered FREE at 9 sites affiliated with summer school locations offered in the afternoons, after summer school sessions. Visit www.dcpsreopenstrong.com/summer/ to register for summer school and to ask about Boost.

For more resources, visit our website at: <https://bit.ly/3jePwfj>

Additional Summer Camp Options:

Just Keep Skating

- Dates: June – August 2022
- Registration/Price: Registration opens May 1, \$250/week,
- Activities: Skating, Field Trips, Learning Olympic Values
- Website: <https://dc.innercityexcellence.org/camp/summer>

iGen

- Dates: June 27 – August 26
- Registration/Price: \$295 weekly fee until June 4
- Activities: STEM-focused building games and creative thinking projects
- Website: <https://igeneduacademy.com/summercamp/>
- For information on tuition assistance, email discover@igeneduacademy.com
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Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington

- Dates: 8-week summer program at multiple locations
- Registration/Price: For information on fees please contact Kevina Fullwood at 202-610-9707 or by email at kfullwood@bgcgw.org
- Activities: Sports, games, arts and crafts and recreational activities
- Website: <https://bgcgw.org/clubs/fbr-club-thearc/>

Camp Forget-Me-Not/Camp Erin DC

- Dates: One day, free day camps for different age groups between June-July 2022
- Registration/Price: Applications close May 15, early applications are encouraged!
- Activities: For children who have recently experienced a death in the family and provides social-emotional learning activities and healthy exploration of grief after loss.
- Website: www.wendtcenr.org/camp-forget-me-not-camp-erin-dc/