

Now is Time for Incoming Kindergarten Families to Kickstart School Preparation

April is an important month for families with children who will begin kindergarten in the fall of 2017, according to those involved with United Way Success By 6®.

During April, parents and caregivers should:

- **Attend the April 11 kindergarten parent meeting with their child** at the St. Joseph School District school where the child will attend in the fall. All incoming kindergarten families should attend the meeting at 5:30 p.m. "The kindergarten parent meeting is an important step and helps kids start ready to succeed," said Bobbie Cronk, United Way Director of Children's Initiatives.

- **Register their child for a summer school class** for incoming kindergarteners at the elementary school where the child will be attending to help the child ease into the kindergarten experience if desired or needed. Information about summer school will be shared at the April 11 meeting.

- **Call United Way in early April to register for United Way KinderClub** if the child will be attending Humboldt, Hyde, Lake Contrary or Oak Grove. United Way KinderClub is a free opportunity for parents and their child to learn together in the kindergarten setting where the child will attend. To register, call 364-2381.

- **Schedule an eye exam and immunizations** for their child before the first

day of school. Free health screenings are available through the school district; information will be shared at the April 11 all-district kindergarten meeting.

- **If the child will be attending a school outside the St. Joseph School District, contact the elementary school where the child will attend** to learn what the family needs to do related to enrollment and preparation.

The kindergarten parent meeting on April 11 will help parents begin to think through details that they may not have considered. Jay Martin, United Way Program Director, said that parents need to plan how their child will get back and forth from school and whether or not childcare will be needed on a regular basis, on early-out days or days when school is cancelled.

"It's important to not to put off details like making appointments. Last minute running around is never fun, and sometimes schedules fill up," said Martin.



Preparation for kindergarten sets a foundation for the rest of a child's life.

Opportunities to Remember

April 5— New and experienced gardeners are invited to attend Gardeners' Lunch at YWCA Terrace Room, 304 N. 8th Street, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Focus: colorful combinations of both sun and shade planters. RSVP to 232-4481. \$15.

April 8— "Fostering Resilience," part 2 in the series of preparing children to thrive. East Hills Library, 502 N. Woodbine Road, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Must RSVP at Resilience2017.kintera.org.

April 8— TAKE Defense Training for women and girls age 12 and older, 9 a.m.-noon at the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex at Missouri Western State University, 4525 Downs Drive. Bring personal hygiene products for YWCA Women's Shelter to be entered in grand prize giveaway. Free admission or \$20 donation for t-shirt. Register at stjoemokiwani.org/take.

April 12— Taste of United Way with lunch and presentation about UCP (one of 18 United Way Partner Agencies), 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. RSVP in advance. No cost. 364-2381.

April 12— Attend the YWCA Annual Meeting. Light refreshments will be served. 304 N. 8th Street, 4-6 p.m. RSVP to 232-4481.

April 20— Free training for parents, "Conscious Discipline: Turning Chaos to Calm." McCarthy Baptist Church, 2710 S. Belt Highway, 6-8 p.m. Light supper begins at 5:30. RSVP to 364-2381.

April 22— Register in person beginning at 8 a.m. for Summer Jam (basketball league for kindergarten through high school students) and Summer Spike (volleyball league for third grade through high school students) at InterServ's Wesley Center, 200 Cherokee. \$60. Call 238-4511, ext. 135 with questions.

April 25— Children's Fair for all children up to 6 years old. Civic Arena, 100 N. 4th Street. First session begins at 9 a.m. Call 232-0050 for more information.

April 26— Treat your staff to Administrative Professionals Luncheon with speakers and prizes at YWCA, 304 N. 8th Street, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. RSVP to 232-4481. \$25.

April 28— Participate in the YWCA Stand Against Racism at 304 N. 8th Street, 10 a.m. For more information, call 232-4481.

April 29— YWCA Ladies Day Vendor Fair. A day of shopping at the YWCA from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 304 N. 8th Street. Call 232-4481 with questions.

April— Register a team to Bowl For Kids' Sake on May 18 and 19 at Belt Bowl, a fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Call 671-4090.

April— Register children, preschool through age 7, for May, June or July sessions of Safety Town to help them learn to be safe. Register at stjoesafetycouncil.org. \$25 for preschoolers. \$40 for school-age children. 233-3330.

18 Partner Agencies

American Red Cross
of Northwest Missouri

Bartlett Center

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Catholic Charities
of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Inc.

The CENTER, a Samaritan Center

Children's Mercy Hospital

Community Missions (CMC)

Family Guidance Center for
Behavioral Healthcare

InterServ

Legal Aid of Western Missouri

Northwest Missouri
Community Services

Pony Express Council,
Boy Scouts of America

St. Joseph Safety & Health Council

The Salvation Army

Specialty Industries
of St. Joseph, Inc.

United Cerebral Palsy
of Northwest Missouri

YMCA

YWCA

7 United Way

Initiatives

FamilyWise® Prescription Assistance

Financial Stability

Leadership St. Joseph

Profit In Education®

Success By 6®

Unmet Needs Committee

Volunteer Center

You are invited to GIVE,
ADVOCATE and VOLUNTEER
through United Way to improve
lives in Northwest Missouri
and Northeast Kansas.

United Way of Greater
St. Joseph supports
18 Partner Agencies and
operates seven Initiatives.

(816) 364-2381
stjosephunitedway.org



United Way
of Greater St. Joseph

