

Spring 2026 Newsletter



Hi Friends!

As the days grow longer and the first signs of spring begin to bloom, I'm reminded of the growth and renewal that happens in families every day. At Parenting Now, our vision is that all children are raised by nurturing, skilled parents, and this season feels like a perfect reflection of that hope.

This spring, we have so much to celebrate together. Our annual Night of Hope gala was a tremendous success; we surpassed our fundraising goals and raised nearly \$140,000. I am deeply grateful to everyone who attended, donated, and helped make the evening so meaningful. Your support ensures that families in our community continue to receive the care and resources they deserve.

We're also excited to be featured in the Community Spotlight at the Eugene Emeralds game on May 3rd at PK Park. This is a wonderful opportunity to share our mission with the broader community, celebrate families, and enjoy a fun, family-friendly evening at the ballpark. We hope you'll join us in the stands to cheer on the Ems and help shine a light on the importance of parenting support in our community.

Looking ahead, we are proud to participate in Eugene PRIDE on June 27th at the Lane Events Center. This vibrant event brings together LGBTQ+ individuals, families, and allies in celebration and connection. Our team is honored to show up in support of LGBTQ+ parents and caregivers, and to continue creating welcoming, inclusive spaces where every family feels seen, valued, and supported.

In gratitude,



Theya Joslin, MPA
Executive Director



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PARENTING NOW



LGBTQ+ Parent Group

Connect with fellow LGBTQ+ parents in a welcoming and supportive space to share experiences, find community, and enjoy good company. **The group meets monthly on the second Monday from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Parenting Now**, featuring a guest speaker or community-led discussion followed by social and support time. Drop in when you can, attend as often as you like, and enjoy this free gathering. Spring and summer dates are available online.

[Learn more about our LGBTQ+ Parent Group](#)



Baby Connection

Baby Connection is a fantastic program at Parenting Now that focuses on building a support network for new parents. It provides a welcoming environment where you can connect with others who are experiencing similar joys and challenges of having a newborn. You'll gain valuable insights into your baby's development, share stories, and learn ways to bond with your little one. Wednesdays 11am-12pm.

[Learn more about Baby Connection](#)

EVENTS



Game Details

- **Date:** Sunday, May 3rd
- **Time:** 1:00 PM
- **Location:** PK Park
- **Theme:** TOUCH-A-TRUCK

SUPPORT PARENTING EDUCATION
AND HAVE A GREAT TIME!

Parenting Now and Eugene Emeralds

Join us Sunday, May 3rd at 1:00 PM at PK Park as the Eugene Emeralds take on the Spokane Indians. As part of the season-long Community Spotlight, Parenting Now will be sharing how we support families.

Between innings and burger bites, swing by our booth to learn how we help parents tackle the wild ride of raising kids—with tools, support, and a whole lot of heart.

We'll be giving away prizes throughout the night, and don't miss your chance to enter our drawing for a backpack cooler filled with goodies—perfect for kids and the whole family!

[Click here for more information: Eugene Emeralds Community Spotlight - Parenting Now](#)



MAY 2ND

12:00PM TO 2:00PM

JOIN US FOR A JOYFUL SPRING CELEBRATION FILLED WITH SEED PLANTING, HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS, LIGHT REFRESHMENTS, AND PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO RECONNECT WITH YOUR PARENTING NOW COMMUNITY.



Spring Alumni Network Garden Gathering

Saturday, May 2nd,
2026 12:00–2:00
PM Location: 86 Centennial
Loop - Parenting Now.

Join us for a joyful spring celebration filled with seed planting, hands-on art activities for kids, light refreshments, and plenty of opportunities to reconnect with your Parenting Now community. Whether you joined Baby Connection, Make Parenting A Pleasure, or another Parenting Now program, this gathering is for you.

This isn't just an event, it's a chance to honor how far you've come, reconnect with familiar faces, and plant new seeds of connection for the seasons ahead.

[Click here for more information: Spring Alumni Garden Gathering](#)

A Disco Night of Hope



[A DISCO Success: Parenting Now's 2026 Night of Hope Auction & Gala](#)

On March 13, 2026, Parenting Now hosted its disco-themed Night of Hope Auction and Gala at Venue 252 in Eugene. The evening brought together groove, glamour, and community as supporters gathered to celebrate a shared commitment to children and families. Guests embraced the spirit of the night in disco-inspired attire, filling the room with energy, style, and connection.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, sponsors, attendees, and volunteers, we are thrilled to share that we surpassed our fundraising goal. Every bid, every gift, and every act of support helps us continue our mission of building brighter futures for families in our community. This success belongs to all of you.

This year, there was no single Champion of Children. Instead, we

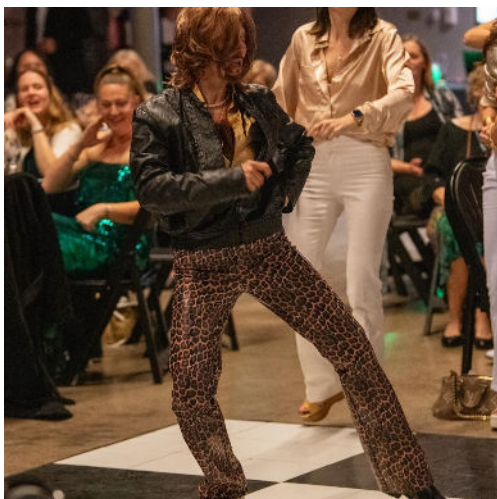


proudly recognize our entire community as the 2026 Champion of Children. For more than 48 years, our supporters have shown up for Parenting Now with care, commitment, and heart. This event was a powerful reminder that when our community comes together, lasting impact follows.

A Special Thanks to Our Grooviest Supporters

Our cocktail hour and silent auction set the tone for the evening and were a true highlight, made possible by generous donations from local businesses and our signature cocktail, Disco Lemonade, which kept spirits high. We extend our sincere thanks to our live auction donors and table sponsors, whose generosity helped carry the momentum throughout the night.

We also want to recognize the Children's Legacy Foundation Network, whose members played a vital role as volunteers during the event. Our heartfelt thanks go to all of our volunteers and auction planning committee members. Their dedication and behind-the-scenes work made the evening run smoothly from start to finish.



Still Feeling the Groove?

Parenting Now exists because of community, and the 2026 Night of Hope was a celebration of that truth. Thank you to everyone who joined us, supported us, and continues to stand with families year after year.

Event photos are available to view [HERE](#) so you can relive the highlights of the evening.





If you or someone you know is passionate about making a difference, we'd love to have you join our Auction Planning Committee. Your creativity and dedication can help us make next year's event even more magical. Please reach out to [Cat Luna](#) to learn more.

Together, our community continues to keep hope alive and families supported, proving that caring for one another never goes out of style.

What a Single Gift Can Make Possible



This year, a long-time supporter of Parenting Now made a generous gift of stock, which, once sold, provided \$70,000 in unrestricted support for families.

That single act of generosity helps make it possible to:

- Offer scholarships so families can participate regardless of income
- Provide healthy snacks and essential supplies, removing stress and creating a welcoming environment
- Support experienced parenting educators and early childhood professionals who lead groups with care and expertise
- Maintain safe, nurturing spaces where parents can focus on learning while their children receive high-quality care

- Invest in training and infrastructure that keep our programs strong, sustainable, and responsive to community needs

In real terms, gifts like this sustain the full ecosystem of Parenting Now, covering everything from childcare and learning materials to staff development, background checks, and the behind-the-scenes systems that allow families to show up and feel supported.

When parents participate in Parenting Now's programming, they leave with confidence, skills, and a sense of community. These are tools that shape not just their children's early years, but their futures.

By removing financial barriers, donor support ensures that every family who wants to learn, grow, and connect has the opportunity to do so. The impact ripples outward: stronger parents, more secure children, and healthier communities for generations to come.

And while a \$70,000 gift can transform what's possible at a large scale, every gift matters. Whether it's providing snacks for a session, helping fund childcare for a parent, or supporting one family's scholarship, each contribution plays a role in building a world where all children are raised by nurturing, skilled parents.

Together, we are not just funding programs, we are investing in families, dignity, and hope.

Behind the Scenes: First Three Years Hosting Parenting Education Groups

Parenting Now's First Three Years program is a holistic initiative designed to support families through every stage of early parenthood. Under this umbrella, we host four distinct groups tailored to meet the evolving needs of parents and children as they grow:

Incredible INFANTS:

- Serving parents during their baby's first year, this group provides foundational support.

Wonderful ONES:

- Guiding families as their toddlers take their first steps into independence.

Terrific TWOs:

- Offering resources and advice for navigating the energetic and curious toddler phase.

Thrilling THREES:

- Helping parents foster communication and social skills as their children transition into preschool years.

This program is a lifeline for our community's parents and children. But we can't do it alone. Together, we work hard to ensure that **financial barriers never stand in the way of families accessing this invaluable education.**

We offer scholarships to families in our communities so that we continue our mission: a world where all children are raised by nurturing, skilled parents.

Why It Matters

Nutrition and Supplies:

- Healthy snacks are provided to families, taking the stress out of planning meals and ensuring everyone is fueled for learning and connection.
- Essential program materials are included to simplify engagement and enhance the learning

Salaries and Professional Development:

- Our dedicated staff includes early education professionals and parenting experts who lead the groups with care and expertise.
- Through our Children's Program, we also provide opportunities for aspiring early education

experience, making it more accessible for families.



Program Materials and Maintenance:

- Age-appropriate learning resources and supplies ensure each session is interactive, educational, and fun for parents.
- Maintenance costs and utilities help create a safe and welcoming environment for all participants.



[Support a First Three Years Group](#)

professionals to gain hands-on experience in a safe and nurturing environment. This supports their career growth while ensuring parents can learn with peace of mind, knowing their children are engaged in quality care.



Childcare for Parents:

- Quality childcare during sessions allows parents to fully immerse themselves in the program while their children enjoy safe, enriching activities tailored to their developmental stages—be it in the ONEs, TWOs, or THREES groups.

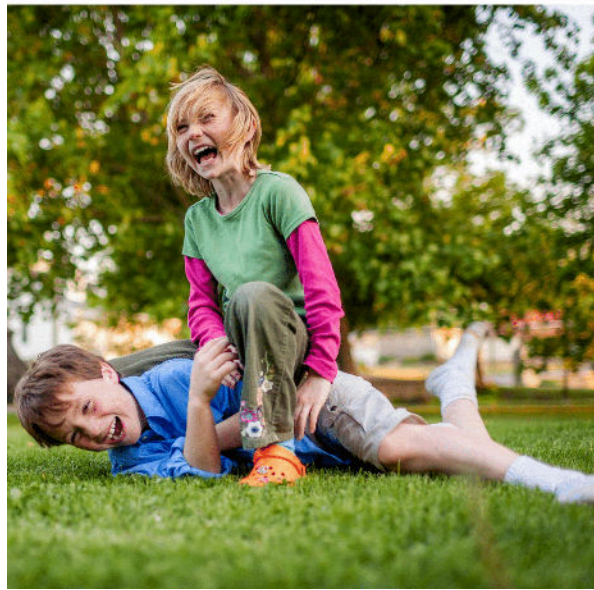


Administrative Support and Infrastructure:

- Indirect costs like IT services, insurance, staff training, and criminal background checks ensure the program operates smoothly and efficiently.
- Volunteer recognition and printing/postage expenses reflect our commitment to cultivating community ties and keeping families informed.

On the Blog:

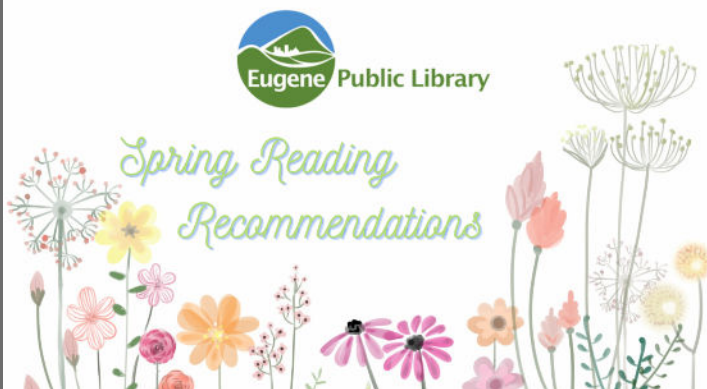
[Rough & Tumble Play: Big Movement, Big Learning](#)



What looks like wild or chaotic play can actually be an important part of healthy child development. In our blog post “Rough and Tumble Play,” we explore how active, physical play, like rolling, wrestling, and playful bumping, supports children’s motor skills, emotional regulation, and social learning when it happens within clear, respectful boundaries. The article highlights how this kind of play helps children learn to communicate limits, understand body autonomy, and recover when things feel too big. It also offers reassurance to parents who may be unsure about when to allow rough play and how to keep it safe and positive.

[Read more](#)

Spring Reading



Visit Eugene Public Library for free [storytimes](#) and other family events. Or come by anytime to connect, play, and find free treasures to take home for fun and learning. For spring, our children's librarians recommend these picture books about **music**.

[Desert Song](#) by Laekan Zea, illustrated by Beatriz Gutierrez Hernandez

[Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music](#) by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Rafael Lopez

[Our Joyful Noise](#) by Gabriele Davis, illustrated by Craig Stanley

[Make a Pretty Sound. A Story of Ella Jenkins—the First Lady of Children's Music](#) by Traci N. Todd, illustrated by Eleanor Davis

[How to Sing a Song](#) by Kwame Alexander and Randy Preston, illustrated by Melissa Sweet

Build your home library by signing up your little one for [Imagination Library](#). This wonderful service sends young children a brand-new book in the mail every month as a free gift to keep. All Lane County children are eligible from birth until they turn five years old.

Learn more about all that's available at Eugene Public Library by visiting in person, calling 541-682-5450, or checking our website eugene-or.gov/library, [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

WAYS TO SUPPORT PARENTING NOW THIS SPRING

Sustainer Giving: At Parenting Now, we believe that strong families build strong communities. Our mission is to provide the local and global community of parents and educators the tools and resources to create and sustain healthy, safe environments for children. But we can't do it alone. We need your help!

Sustainer Fund: Multiply Your Impact

The Sustainer Fund is a pledge program that allows you to make automatic monthly donations to Parenting Now. By becoming a community sustainer, you'll be part of a select group of our most loyal donors, helping us create a more nurturing and loving world for everyone.

[Join Us Today!](#)

Visit our Sustainer Fund page to sign up or learn more. Together, we can create a brighter future for families and children.

[Become a Community Sustainer Today and Help Children and Families!](#)

[New Baby, New World: Navigating Parenthood Together](#)



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