



GARDEN EXPLORERS

where kids discover the world

Thursday Mornings at 9:00 AM under the Pavilion

Guests encouraged to arrive starting at 8:45 AM

FREE for Garden Members & Children 10 Years & Under
Adults & Seniors: \$5

Age appropriate for 3-5 year olds, but all ages welcome
Children must be accompanied by an adult guardian at all times

Storytime books are selected & provided by the Rockford Public Library



Thursday, June 8 - BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Reader: Lynn Stainbrook
Executive Director, Rockford Public Library
Program: Barbara Williams, *Nature Expert*

Let's learn all about birds! Children will learn all about birds and hold real bird nests and feathers! Each child will take home an origami bird.



Thursday, July 13 - ANIMAL TRACKS

Reader: Tom MacNamara
Mayor of Rockford
Program: Sarah MacNamara, *Artist*

Make an animal print! Children will make art prints and a stationary set using water soluble colored inks and a print block carved with animal faces and tracks.



Thursday, June 15 - MY WONDERFUL BODY

Reader: Dr. Alex Stagnaro-Green
Regional Dean, College of Medicine at Rockford
Program: Discovery Center Museum

Come play with "mucus!" Learn about healthy mucus vs unhealthy mucus and make some slime to take home! We'll color, cut out and assemble a brain and skeleton to take home!



Thursday, July 20 - AESOP'S FABLES

Reader: Chief O'Shea
Police Chief, Rockford Police Department
Program: Hoo Haven Wildlife Rehabilitation

Hoo Haven brings some of the animals featured in Aesop's favorite fables: Whiskers the Chinchilla Rabbit, TJ the Turkey Vulture and a tortoise. See the skills Whiskers is learning and discover why the world needs turkey vultures!



Thursday, June 22 - I LOVE MY CITY

Reader: John Groh
CEO, Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Program: Karla Lombardo, *Artist*

Karla Lombardo's art is much like her personality and hometown: unmistakably original. With the help of the kids, Karla will paint a picture of what makes our city, and each child, original.



**Thursday, July 27
TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME**

Reader: Rockford Rivets Baseball Players
Performer: Duke Otherwise

Duke returns to perform his hilarious, charming and interactive musical program for all ages. With his guitar, tap shoes and distinct baritone, he writes original songs bursting with clever wordplay and fun ideas for both kids and adults.



Thursday, June 29 - PUPPET PLAY ALONG

Reader: Rockford IceHogs Representative
Performer: Laura Doherty

Laura Doherty, a Chicago favorite in the family music scene, will perform breezy folk-pop tunes with her puppet friends: Jazzasaurus, Pinky the Fish and Domingo the Flamingo. This interactive concert will have kids dancing and clapping along to Laura's catchy tunes!



Thursday, August 3 - BUZZING BEES

Reader: Geoff VanThiel, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon, Orthollinois
Program: Barbara Williams, *Nature Expert*

Learn all about bees with expert Barbara Williams. We'll look at preserved specimens of various bees, see their nests and even taste honey! Each child will take home an origami bee.



Thursday, July 6 - BATS IN THE NIGHT

Reader: Austin Love, *Morning Anchor, WREX*
Program: Barbara Williams, *Nature Expert*

Learn fascinating facts about bats! Discover the different types of bats and listen to some of their "calls." Each child will take home an origami bat.



Thursday, August 10 - TAKE FLIGHT TO AFRICA

Reader: Jeff Kaney
Founder & CEO, Kaney Group, LLC
Program: Rockford Dance Company

The Rockford Dance Company will present an excerpt from their performance of "Anansi," African folktales that tell of the creations of the moon, sun, earth & sea.

Garden Explorers Made Possible By:

