

# Fall Newsletter

2023

## *Milton Early Childhood Alliance*

a program of



Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc.

and funded by the MA Dept. of Early  
Education and Care's CFCE Grant



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We're on on Facebook & Instagram at:  
Milton Early Childhood Alliance

## Our Fall Programming...always free!

### Story Walks

Story Walk at Houghton's Pond - enjoy a colorful fall children's story\* with your family that follows a leaf as it glides on gusty fall winds. See if you can find the chicken, ducks, geese, turkey, spotted cow, and other animals mentioned in this great book! Houghton's Pond is open daily from dawn to dusk and located at 860 Hillside Street in Milton.

Story Walk at Milton Cemetery and Arboretum - enjoy a beautifully illustrated book\* that explores the many things that animals can do with their 5 senses and tails! Can you do what they can do? Find out at the Story Walk posted around the duck pond at Milton Cemetery and Arboretum, which is open seven days a week from 8:00 AM to sunset and located at 211 Centre Street in Milton.

Story Walk at Trailside Museum - follow a pack of rambunctious sheep\* as they take a hike in the woods and get lost. Find out how they found their way home! The Trailside Museum's outdoor grounds are open daily 9:00-4:00 and is located at 1904 Canton Avenue in Milton.

\*These stories will be posted shortly, so if they are not posted when you arrive, enjoy the current stories at each location and plan to return to enjoy these Story Walks soon!

What is a StoryWalk®? It's a self-guided, unique, and fun way to enjoy a children's story book outdoors. Pages of a book are laminated to protect them from the weather and posted in areas of town that are child-friendly. And, the pages are numbered so you don't lose your way!

### Welcome Baby Infant Series

Join us and Facilitator Sheryl White of Baby Kneads, as we discuss and learn about infant development, nutrition, baby massage, what to expect, sleep habits/patterns, infant sign language, bonding & attachment, and non-verbal cues. Time will be provided to ask questions, socialize, and make new friends. We will meet on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 from October 4th through November 8th in the Parlor of the First Congregational Church, 495 Canton Avenue in Milton. You will be asked to complete the Ages & Stages Questionnaire, which will provide you with information on your child's current growth and development. Registration is required and can be completed here: <https://forms.gle/xyk2bsKwuNVMxNPM9>.





# **Continued: Our Fall Programming...always free!**

## **Multi-Sensory Learning and Development Workshop**

This terrific workshop is for parents, caregivers, and early childhood staff. Join us and Facilitator Rachel Giza-Sisson, MS, OTR/L, of South Shore Therapies as we discuss ways children can learn through multi-sensory play and activities to enhance their motor development and regulation skills. This workshop aims to provide strategies that can be implemented both within the home and school settings. We will meet on Thursday, October 5th from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM at Learning Circle Preschool, 3 Blue Hill River Road in Canton. Registration is highly recommended (especially if you would like a training hours certificate) and can be completed here: <https://forms.gle/WZowNtYfKh97pp3G6>.

*This program is in collaboration with Learning Circle Preschool.*

## **Toddler and Preschool Drop-In Playgroup Series**

If you are looking for a place to play with your child, make new friends, and have some fun, this is it! We'll be opening the doors at Discovery Schoolhouse, 101 Blue Hills Parkway in Milton on October 12th, November 9th, and December 14th for you and your child to come and play in a classroom space. We'll be there from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM each evening. Registration is not required; however, you must sign in upon arrival, remain with your child, and play. If this drop-in playgroup is successful, we will continue it into the new year.

## **Stories and Friends Meet Up: Exploring Trees and Plants**

Join us for a woodsy adventure, listen to stories, and make new friends! We'll have fun, interactive, activities set up to help with learning about leaves, logs, flowers, and trees! We'll be taping and stapling and hammering and coloring and exploring, so please dress accordingly. This program will be held on Saturday, October 21st at 10:30 AM and is for children 2 1/2 to 6 years old with their parent/guardian. We'll meet at the Pavilion at Houghton's Pond, which is across the grass from the Visitor Center, 850 Hillside Street in Milton. Registration is not required; however, you will be asked to sign in upon arrival. This program will be held in light rain; otherwise, it will be cancelled and re-scheduled.

*Many thanks to our Kindergarten T-shirt sponsors for their generous support of this programming!*

## **Stories and Friends Meet Up: Exploring Late Fall**

We're learning about what happens when the seasons change! What happens to the trees? Where do animals go for winter? We'll have stories, songs, and activities included in this program to help make the learning interactive and fun. We'll be exploring outdoors, collecting, painting, decorating, gluing, and coloring, so please dress accordingly. This program will be held on Saturday, November 18th at 10:30 AM and is for children 2 1/2 to 6 years old with their parent/guardian. We'll meet at the Pavilion at Houghton's Pond, which is across the grass from the Visitor Center, 850 Hillside Street in Milton. Registration is not required; however, you will be asked to sign in upon arrival. This program will be held in light rain; otherwise, it will be cancelled and re-scheduled.

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# Continued: Our Fall Programming...always free!

## Watch for our Upcoming Preschool Playgroup Registration!

Our long-running and highly anticipated Learning Through Play Preschool Playgroup Series will return in February and March! Watch for further details and registration in early January. Professor Dotty Alexander will be heading up the team once again. We'll be meeting on Saturday mornings at Discovery Schoolhouse for fun learning through play. Learning At Home Extension Activity bags will be distributed weekly. Completion of the Ages & Stages Questionnaire will be required. *This Playgroup series is funded through the Milton Hospital Community Health Grant.*

## Milton Public Library Happenings

Have you heard? The Milton Public Library's Children's Room has Dial-A-Story! Call 617-915-1915 at any time to listen to picture books, a joke, and the first chapters of middle-grade and teen books. Stories are read to you by MPL librarians (and a guest reader!) and updated every month. Also, check out all of the fun children's programming being offered this fall! Stop by to enjoy their Story Walk, located on the outdoor patios, as well as activities found at the Children's Room center activity table. Join the Library staff for storytimes with Night Owls Storytime for ages 3 to 8 on Mondays at 6:30 PM, Ms. Tory's Stories for ages 0 to 5 on Tuesdays at 10:00 or 10:45 AM, Small Wonders for ages 0 to 5 on Wednesdays at 10:00 or 10:45 AM, Baby Rhyme Time for ages 0 to 12 months every other Friday at 11:00 AM, and Saturday Sillies, a weekly rotation of activities for ages 0-5, on Saturdays at 10:00 AM. Many additional programs are offered for various ages, so visit their website at: [miltonlibrary.org](http://miltonlibrary.org), click on Events, and use the drop-down menu under All Programs to choose Children's Programs.

## Leaf Rubbing Project

### You'll need:

Various leaves not yet dried out  
White paper  
Crayons without paper wrappers

### Instructions:

Help your child lay a leaf under a white piece of paper. Have your child use the side of a crayon and rub it back and forth over the white paper in the area of the paper where the leaf is underneath. Watch the shape and structure of the leaf appear!

To make a pretty collage, suggest to your child that they use different shaped leaves and different colored crayons to create various leaf rubbings to fill the white paper with colorful leaves. Your child may need to press down hard to achieve the desired result.

**Developmental Skill:** This a great fine motor skill that will help develop the muscles and tendons in their hand, wrist, and fingers!





## Are you looking for childcare? If so, we can help!

Just email [cpcmecasld@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasld@verizon.net), let us know the age of your child, and we'll send you a comprehensive listing of all licensed childcare programs and providers in town, surrounding cities and towns, or via your driving route.



## Are you looking for resources and/or information?

The Milton Early Childhood Alliance maintains a comprehensive Milton Parents Resource Manual on our website. Check it out at [www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org](http://www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org).

### Is Your Child Developing on Target for Their Age?

Through the Help Me Grow program, the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) is a FREE, simple tool you can use to find out what your child's strengths are and the areas where they may need more practice. The program is designed specifically for the age of your child anywhere between birth and 5 ½ years old, and can be done multiple times during your child's first five years of life. Simply complete an online Questionnaire in the comfort of your home, then submit it to us for scoring. We'll let you know the results, help you with next steps, if needed, and provide you with fun, simple activities to help with your child's continual growth and development - all for free!

Our ASQ online link is: <https://www.asqonline.com/family/8fd7d7>.

### Many thanks to our Kindergarten Days Sponsors!

Dental 1, Elliott Physical Therapy, The Friends of Milton Public Library, The Fruit Center Marketplace, Harte Dental, Historic New England Eustis Estate Museum, The Ice Creamsmith, Ichiro Sushi, Mackie's Barbershop, Milton Public Library, Mr. Chan's, The Toy Chest at the Nutshell, and Starbuck's.

*Please help us thank them for their generosity!*

### Food Assistance

Milton Food Pantry:

call 617-696-0221

[www.miltonfoodpantryma.org](http://www.miltonfoodpantryma.org)

WIC - Women, Infants & Children

call Quincy's office 617-376-8701

<https://wic.bamsi.org/>

Interfaith Social Services

call 617-773-6203 x19

[www.interfaithsocialservices.org/food/](http://www.interfaithsocialservices.org/food/)

Project Bread:

call hotline 1-800-645-8333

[www.projectbread.org](http://www.projectbread.org)

### Fall Farm Fun

Visit each website for more information.

[Brookwood Community Farm, Milton](#)

[Tougas Family Farm, Northborough](#)

[Ward's Berry Farm, Sharon](#)

[Davis Farmland, Sterling](#)

[Langwater Farm, North Easton](#)

[Russell Orchards, Ipswich](#)

[Honey Pot Hill Orchards, Stow](#)

[Pakeen Farm, Canton](#)

[Shelburne Farm, Stow](#)

[Sauchuk Farm, Plympton](#)

[Kimball Farm, Westford](#)

[Cider Hill Farm, Amesbury](#)

[West End Creamery, Whitinsville](#)

[Brooksby Farm, Peabody](#)

[Drumlin Farm, Lincoln](#)

[Simcock Farm, Swansea](#)





### Did You Know?

If you read just 1 book a day to your child, they will have read 1,825 books by their 5th birthday!!

### Mabel's Labels

Do you use clothing labels for back to school, sports, childcare or after school programs, senior housing, assisted living and/or nursing homes?

Mabel's Labels would be a terrific source for your clothing label needs! There are also labels for water bottles, lunch boxes, personal items, etc.

And, when you make a purchase, you'll be supporting the Milton Early Childhood Alliance!!

Simply visit this website:  
[https://mabelslabels.com/en\\_US/fundraising/support/](https://mabelslabels.com/en_US/fundraising/support/), type in Milton Early Childhood Alliance, and start shopping.  
Shipping is free!!

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

We are looking for parents and grandparents of young children (birth to 8 years old) to join our Advisory Council. If you would like to help inform our programs and share your thoughts and ideas, please email [cpcmecasld@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasld@verizon.net).

We would love to hear from you!

### In Crisis? Dial 988

The Federal Communications Commission has formally designated 988 as a nationwide 3-digit number for mental health crisis and suicide prevention services. If you, or someone you know, is in crisis:

Dial: 988; Text: 988; Chat: [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org).

Trained counselors are there to help!

### 7 Corn Mazes\* Within a 2 Hour Drive (adapted from The Boston Calendar)

- Amazing Corn Maze at Hanson's Farm  
Framingham, MA  
<https://www.hansonsfarmframingham.com>
- Marini Farm Corn Maze  
Ipswich, MA  
<https://www.marinifarm.com/corn-maze2>
- Sauchuk's Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch  
Plympton MA  
<https://www.sauchukmaze.com/>
- Davis Mega Maze  
Sterling, MA  
<https://davismegamaze.com/mega-maze/>
- Escobar Farm Corn Maze  
Portsmouth, RI  
<http://escobarfarm.com/the-maze/>
- Mike's Maze  
Sunderland, MA  
<https://mikesmaze.com/>
- The Apple Place Corn Maze  
East Longmeadow, MA  
<https://www.theappleplace.net/corn-maze>

\*May have entrance fees

### Great Fall Books for Children



Leaf Man by Lois Elhert



Ox-Cart Man  
by Donald Hall



Leaves by David  
Ezra Stein



Apples A to Z by  
Margaret McNamara



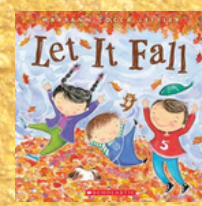
The Little Old Lady  
Who Was Not Afraid  
of Anything  
by Linda Williams



The Biggest Pumpkin  
Ever by Steven Kroll



Peppa Pig Goes Apple  
Picking by Meredith Rusu



Let It Fall by Maryann  
Cocca-Leffler



We are grateful to the First Congregational Church for their generous support of our office space.