



Milton Early Childhood Alliance



Fall, 2014

Serving families with
children birth to
8 years old.
We are here to help!

How to reach us:

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"Like" us on Facebook:

Milton Early Childhood
Alliance

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Story Walks

To celebrate the Commonwealth's 18th annual Family Literacy Month, we have joined with Tucker Elementary School to offer a Story Walk. Visit Tucker School's back playground for a unique and enjoyable literacy experience! The Story Walk will be remain posted along their fence through the month of November.

Update: Our Story Walk located at the Trailside Museum has been removed for the winter months. Look for it to return in the Spring!

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

Upcoming Activities and Events

STEM has been added to the Milton Public Library's Free Play Fridays. Come spend some fun, one-on-one time with your child while enjoying many terrific Science, Technology, Engineering and Math activities! This program meets every other Friday. There will be different activities each time you visit. Upcoming program dates are: November 7 and 21, December 5 and 19, and January 16 and 30. Programming will continue on this schedule throughout the year.

Winter Play Group plans are being finalized now. This play group series will run every Thursday morning through April. Look for flyers posted around town, for further information. To be one of the first to hear when it will begin, either "Like" us on Facebook at Milton Early Childhood Alliance or email cpcmecasl@verizon.net and request to be added to our parent email list.

Kindergarten—Your Child's Next Big Step parent education workshop will be held after the new year. This terrific workshop helps parents with their child's transition to kindergarten. Date to be determined soon.

More on Page Two!





Looking for child care or a preschool for your child? We can help! Give us a call at 617-696-2262 and we can explore options with you that best fit the needs of your family. Or, visit our website for a complete listing of center based child care and preschool programs in Milton as well as the contact information for the Milton Area Family Child Care Association.



What is the **Ages & Stages Questionnaire** Program? Ages & Stages helps you monitor your child's growth and development. Participation in this program is free. We will provide you with an age appropriate questionnaire for you to complete with your child. Then, return it to us for scoring. It only takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete. We will let you know if your child is on target for their age and provide you with fun activities to encourage your child's future development. Give us a call at 617-696-2262 or email cpcmecasl@verizon.net.

At Home With STEM

Here are some Science, Technology, Engineering and Math activities to do at home!

Science—Be an observer: Take a walk around your neighborhood with your child and look at nature. Ask questions such as: Where are the leaves? Why are the pinecones and acorns on the ground? Why are the squirrels so busy? Compare rocks to see which ones have sparkles in them. Make some snowballs, bring them home and put them in a sink. Where did they go? What made them disappear?

Technology—Make friends with a mouse: Children need strong fine motor skills to operate a computer mouse. Start with play dough and make balls and snakes. Have them try rolling the dough into pea-size balls with just their fingertips. Make a necklace by lacing pasta on a string. Make a picture using stickers. Once their fine motor skills are ready, visit www.pbskids.org/sesame/games/dress-time/ for a fun computer mouse clicking game.

Engineering—Build a building: Use boxes found around the house (cereal, oatmeal, crackers, diapers, etc.) to build a building, knock it down and build it again. Tape the open ends of the box closed to make it sturdier. You can even cover the boxes in wrapping paper, if desired. The more boxes you have, the bigger the building. Ask questions as you build such as: Is it taller or shorter than you? Do you think it will fall down? What can you do to prevent it from falling? What can you use to knock it down?

Math—Be a cook: Cooking with your child is a great way to incorporate basic math skills. Have them help you by using measuring cups to measure ingredients, help them count the number of items on the cookie sheet, let your child set the timer, or count the eggs, or tell you when the pot of water is full. Ask questions that will incorporate math language such as: When will this cup be full? How many green beans will we be cooking? Can you pass me 10 chocolate chips? Can you let me know when this pot is half full?

Remember to ask your child open ended questions which will allow them to explore and think for themselves...and have fun!

Children's Programming at Milton Public Library

The Milton Public Library offers many programs for children birth through school age. Visit their website at miltonlibrary.org for a complete listing of programs!