



# Milton Early Childhood Alliance



Fall, 2016

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

Contact us by:

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Milton Early Childhood Alliance

The Milton Early Childhood Alliance is funded by the Coordinated Families and Community Engagement grant through the Mass. Department of Early Education and Care and is administered by Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc.

We gratefully acknowledge the First Congregational Church for their generous support of our office space.



## Upcoming Free Activities and Events

**Story TOUR at Brookwood Community Farm** Watch Lois Elhert's book, *Growing Vegetable Soup*, come alive as you and your child experience the book first hand on a working farm! See how Brookwood Farm grows and harvests fresh foods and utilize the same tools used in the children's book. Learn about the critters that live on the farm and how they eat off the land. Work with your child to plant their own seeds to take home and watch grow. For families with children three to eight years old. Parents/caregivers are expected to stay and supervise their child at all times. Registration is required by emailing [cpcmecasld@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasld@verizon.net) or calling 617-696-2262. Saturday, September 17, 2016 from 10:00-11:00 AM at 11 Blue Hill River Road in Canton. For cancellation due to inclement weather, call the Blue Hills Event line at 617-698-1802, ext. 3. This event is co-sponsored by the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation, Brookwood Community Farm, and Susan Lewis-Grant, Realtor at Coldwell Banker's Milton office.

**Help Me Get Ready to Read** Join the authors of the book *Help Me Get Ready to Read* for a workshop that will guide parents, grandparents, and caregivers on how best to read aloud to children during their first five years. This workshop will teach reading strategies to help you introduce early literacy concepts and skills, provide criteria for choosing good children's picture books, and give you the tools you need to help get your child ready to read. For families with children birth to six years old. Wednesday, September 28, 2016 from 7:30 to 9:00 PM at 3 Blue Hill River Road in Canton. Please register by emailing [cpcmecasld@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasld@verizon.net) or calling 617-696-2262. This event is co-sponsored by Learning Circle Preschool and Curry College Education Department.

**Story Walk®** A new book was just posted at the Trailside Museum for the fall! Bring a picnic, take a walk, see the animals, and read a terrific children's book along the way. The Trailside Museum is located at 1904 Canton Avenue. The Story Walk can be enjoyed daily from 9:00-5:00. This is an outdoor, rain or shine activity, so please dress appropriately. This event is co-sponsored by the Blue Hills Trailside Museum and Susan Lewis-Grant, Realtor at Coldwell Banker's Milton office.

**STEM Free Play Fridays** continue at Milton Public Library. 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 morning from 10:00-12:00. There will be different activities each time you visit. The Milton Public Library is located at 476 Canton Avenue. Upcoming program dates are: September 9, 23, October 7, 21, November 4, 18, December 2 and 16. This program is co-sponsored by Milton Public Library.

**Story Walk® at Tucker School** A book will be posted in the back playground of Tucker Elementary School during the month of November for families and children to enjoy! Visit the playground, read a wonderful book posted along the fence, and have fun. The Story Walk® will be installed in early November and will remain through Thanksgiving. This program is co-sponsored by Milton Public Schools and Susan Lewis-Grant, Realtor at Coldwell Banker's Milton office.

**Skip and Hop Co-op Playgroup** will return this December for the cold, winter months. The Skip and Hop Co-Op Playgroup is a free, parent cooperative, indoor play space where energetic toddlers and preschoolers can play and make new friends. Parents with their infants are welcome as well. This playgroup is co-sponsored by the First Congregational Church. Meeting dates and time will be determined soon.

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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. We can also refer you so your family can be added to the State's waitlist for child care vouchers.



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 [cpmcasld@verizon.net](mailto:cpmcasld@verizon.net).

## At Home With STEM—for parents and grandparents

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, swipe a screen, and hold writing tools. 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. Create a picture using peel-and-stick labels and stickers. Once their fine motor skills are ready, visit [www.pbskids.org/sesame/games/dress-time/](http://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 boxes closed to make them 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 that begin with "what do you think?", which will allow them to explore ideas, think for themselves and have fun!**

**Also, check out our fun STEM activities available to play with during Free Play Fridays at Milton Public Library!**

## 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](http://miltonlibrary.org) for a complete listing of programs!

## Many thanks to our supporters this summer!

Discovery Schoolhouse, Blue Hills Trailside Museum, Brookwood Community Farm, Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation, Milton Public Schools, Milton Public Library, Cunningham Park/Hall, Star Market in Quincy Center, The Fruit Center Marketplace, Bent's Cookie Factory, Mackie's Barber Shop, Ichiro Sushi, Starbucks, The Nutshell, Citizen's Bank, Mr. Chan's, Susan Lewis-Grant (Realtor at Coldwell Banker's Milton office) and Friends of the Milton Public Library. We truly appreciate your continued support!