



Milton Early Childhood Alliance

Serving Milton's Families with Children



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May, 2014

Our Upcoming Events and Activities...FREE to all

Serving families with children birth to 8 years old.

We are here to help!

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Milton Early Childhood
Alliance

Strategies for Success—This two-part parent education workshop will be held on Tuesdays, May 13th and 20th from 7:00-8:30 PM at Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc., 101 Blue Hills Pkwy. in Milton. We bring back very popular parent educator, Faina Smith, who will work with parents on setting limits with your child, listening intentionally to your child, and exploring different children's temperaments. Free child care will be provided. We thank the Milton Junior Woman's Club for their support with this terrific series.

Let's Build!—A STEM engineering workshop from *Bricks4Kidz* for parents/caregivers AND their children 3 to 5 years old. You'll use many various building blocks like Legos® and Duplos® to build, sort, count, identify and problem solve. Come build with us on Saturday, May 24th at 9:30 AM in Huntington Hall, First Congregational Church, 495 Canton Ave., Milton. Registration is required. Please call 617-696-2262 or email cpcmecasld@verizon.net to register. Space is limited, so please register early.

How Many Senses?—A STEM technology workshop from the *Trailside Museum* for parents/ caregivers AND their children 3 to 5 years old. Featuring a live animal presentation, you'll learn about a human's five senses and compare them to different animals' senses. Come see, hear, smell and touch some animals on Wednesday, May 28th at 9:30 AM, Trailside Museum, 1904 Canton Ave., Milton. Registration is required. Please call 617-696-2262 or email cpcmecasld@verizon.net to register. Space is limited, so please register early.

Math Garden—A STEM math workshop from *Milton Public Library* for parents/caregivers AND their children 3 to 5 years old. You'll use a variety of beans to measure, sort, weigh, pour and classify. You'll even plant your own beans to grow at home! Come celebrate things that grow on Saturday, June 7th at 2:00 PM in the Story Hour Room at Milton Public Library, 476 Canton Ave., Milton. Registration is required. Please call 617-696-2262 or email cpcmecasld@verizon.net to register. Space is limited, so please register early.

Simply Simple Machines—A STEM science workshop from *Milton Public Library* for parents/ caregivers AND their children 3 to 5 years old. You'll learn all about pulleys, wheels, pendulums, inclined planes and use them to see how to make every day work a bit easier. Come make your own machines on Saturday, June 21st at 2:00 PM in the Story Hour Room at Milton Public Library, 476 Canton Ave., Milton. Registration is required. Please call 617-696-2262 or email cpcmecasld@verizon.net to register. Space is limited, so please register early.

Children's Concert—Join us on Thursday, June 5th at 6:00 PM at the Baron Hugo Gazebo at Town Hall. The rain date will be June 12th. Bring a picnic and join Wayne Potash for singing, dancing, and a whole lot of fun! Future kindergarteners: come meet other children heading to kindergarten this fall. This concert is fun for all ages!

Story Walk—Don't forget our Story Walk currently installed on the grounds of the Trailside Museum, 1904 Canton Ave., Milton from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day. Check back regularly as a new book will be posted as the weather changes all the way through October!

The Milton Early Childhood Alliance is funded by the Coordinated Families and Community Engagement grant through the MA 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.



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Do you have a child who will be entering kindergarten in the fall? Now's the time to start thinking and preparing for that big step. Keep in mind that kindergarten teachers are ready for your child. But, there are still some things you can work on to help make your child's transition into kindergarten a bit smoother. If you practice some skills during the summer months, it may be easier in the fall for your child to acclimate to his or her new surroundings. Give some of these tips a try:

- Make sure your child knows their first and last name (and maybe even their address).
- Have them practice how to put on their coat, jacket, boots, and hat.
- Practice zipping, buttoning, and snapping.
- Have them use their fine motor skills a bit more during the summer months: play with Play-Doh®, draw with pencils, lace some cards, string a pile of beads, build sand castles at the beach, build a tall building with Legos®, etc.
- Play games that will help them learn to take turns.
- Read to your child often so they can practice their sitting and listening skills. As school nears, read books about kindergarten (some popular titles are: *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten*, *Froggy Goes to School*, *Countdown to Kindergarten*, *Look Out Kindergarten Here I Come*, *Welcome to Kindergarten*). The Milton Public Library will have books on display available for you to check out as kindergarten nears.
- Let your child help with the laundry. There are many skills to be practiced and learned, like colors, sorting, counting, identifying, and stacking.
- Find opportunities to connect with other children also going to kindergarten in the fall. You can attend our Children's Concert on June 5th at 6:00 PM, Baron Hugo Gazebo, Milton Town Hall, make play dates with families you know in the neighborhood who have children taking this same big step in September, and watch for word from the school your child will be attending in the fall as they usually will hold a special event prior to the start of school.
- Make sure to pick up our bright yellow, "I'm Going to Kindergarten", t-shirt at your child's Milton Public School screening in June.
- Start in August having your child go to bed earlier and wake up when they will need to be up for school.
- Let them help you label their personal items they'll be bringing to school (backpack, lunchbox, jacket, etc.).
- Visit the playground at the school they will attend to help them feel more comfortable with the building and grounds.
- Enjoy our Kindergarten Days event during the first week in September by visiting specific establishments in town and receiving free items or discounts to celebrate your child's big step. (Further information will be available soon.)
- Watch our video "So, You're Going to Kindergarten!" at <http://vimeo.com/47896597> created in collaboration with Milton Public Schools and Milton Access TV. It will help answer many questions for you and your child.
- Visit the Countdown to Kindergarten exhibit at the Boston Children's Museum. For more information, visit www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org.
- Check out these fun Brain Building in Progress kindergarten readiness activities to do with your child. They can be found on our website at www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org; click on "Countdown to Kindergarten".
- Relax...because if you are relaxed and calm, your child will be as well!



Do you think your family may qualify for a **child care voucher** through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts? If so, visit our website at www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org for qualification guidelines OR give us a call at 617-696-2262. Our office can add your family to Kinderwait, the state's online centralized 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 have fun with and complete with your child. Once complete, 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 ideas and fun activities to encourage your child's future development. If interested in participating, give us a call at 617-696-2262 or email cpcmecasl@verizon.net.



All of our family activities and events support **Brain Building in Progress**. By participating in our programming, you are building the brains of our future. That's why you see this sign on all of our materials!

How do you hear about our events and activities? "Like" us on Facebook at Milton Early Childhood Alliance!



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