



Milton Early Childhood Alliance

Serving Milton's Families with Children



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Spring, 2016

Our Upcoming Events and Activities...FREE to all

Serving families with children birth to 8 years old.

We are here to help!

Contact us via:

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"Like" us on Facebook:

Milton Early Childhood Alliance

Story Walk at Trailside Museum — Our Story Walk, located at the Trailside Museum, has returned! A new story will be posted every five to six weeks beginning now through the end of October. Stories can be enjoyed by children both young and old. Bring some friends, read a story, have a picnic, take a hike in the Blue Hills. Remember to dress for the weather as this is an outdoor experience. Registration is not required, however, please sign our Guest Register so we know you were there!

Story Walk at Brookwood Farm — A new Story Walk, located at Brookwood Farm on the Milton/Canton line, has been installed! A different story will be posted every two months beginning now through the fall. Stories can be enjoyed by children both young and old. Bring some friends, read a story, have a picnic, take a walk along beautiful Maple Lane. Remember to dress for the weather as this is an outdoor experience. Registration is not required, however, please sign our Guest Register so we know you were there!

STEM Free Play Fridays at Milton Public Library — will continue every other Friday in their Children's Story Hour Room from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Come enjoy some terrific parent and child activities while learning about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Activities are appropriate for children ages three to six years old WITH their parent, guardian or caregiver. There will be different activities each visit with information on the activities available to take and re-create at home. Registration is not required, however, you will be required to sign-in upon arrival. STEM Free Play Fridays will continue every other week through the summer and fall. See what's coming up:

May 13th: Can You Measure It?

May 27th: Does it Stick?

June 10th: How Does It Go?

June 24th: Fine Motor Skills

Children's Concert — On June 2nd, our annual Children's Concert will be held at Baron Hugo Gazebo at Milton's Town Hall from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Join us for toe-tappin', banjo rockin', guitar groovin' music, singing, and fun for all ages! Wear your bright yellow t-shirt and meet other children entering kindergarten in the fall. Bring a blanket, picnic, and your friends for an evening of fun! Registration is not required. If it looks like rain, check with our office at 617-696-2262 after 4:00 PM and we'll let you know if we've postponed the Concert until June 9th.

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 during the summer months with your child, 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 and phone number).
- 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 2nd 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 May.
- 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 refer your family so you can be added to the state's online 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 while completing 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 will 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 cpcmecasld@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!

