



Milton Early Childhood Alliance

Newsletter



Spring, 2019

Our Upcoming Events & Activities...always FREE!

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Serving families with children birth to 8 years old.

We are here to help!

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Milton Early Childhood Alliance

Story Walks at Trailside Museum and Houghton's Pond — Our Story Walks, located at the Trailside Museum and Houghton's Pond, will be returning! A new story will be posted every five to six weeks at the Trailside Museum from mid-April through the beginning of December. Seasonal spring, summer, and fall stories will be posted at Houghton's Pond. Stories can be enjoyed by children both young and old. Bring some friends, read a story, have a picnic, take a hike. Remember to dress for the weather as this is an outdoor experience. Registration is not required. Co-sponsored with MA Audubon and MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation.

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 five years old WITH their parent, guardian or caregiver. There will be different activities each visit. 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: April 12th: Does it Stick?, April 26th: How Does it Go?, May 10th: Fine Motor Skills, May 24th: How Much Does it Weigh?, June 7th: What Do You See?, and June 21st: Our Five Senses. Co-sponsored with Milton Public Library.

Parachute Fun Playgroup Series — join us for stories, songs, parachute games, and fun! Playgroup will be held on Thursdays, May 2 to June 6, 10:30 AM, at First Congregational Church, 495 Canton Avenue in Milton. This program is recommended for children, ages two and up, **with** their parent/guardian and is in collaboration with the Quincy/Braintree Family Network. Registration is not required, however, you will need to complete a registration form during your first visit.

Parent Cafés: Getting Ready for Kindergarten — Will your child be attending kindergarten in the fall? Do you wonder if your child is ready academically, socially, or emotionally? Would you like to learn what you can do to make the transition easier for your child and your family? Then, a free Parent Café is for you! This workshop is open to all families; your child will not need to attend Milton Public Schools. Choose from one of two sessions available, register and attend. Session 1 will meet Tuesday, May 7th from 5:00-6:00 PM at Tucker Elementary School and Session 2 will meet Tuesday, May 14th from 9:00-10:00 AM at Cunningham Hall. Please register by emailing cpcmecasl@verizon.net or calling 617-696-2262. Registration is not required, but is preferred so we may have an accurate count for handouts. Co-sponsored with Milton Public Schools and Cunningham Hall.

Parenting With Style — We all know the most important gift you can give to your child is love. Did you know the second most important gift you can give is discipline? Yet, it is this topic that raises many questions. This parent workshop is designed to address those questions in a way that respects each families unique history, values, and perspectives. So, we are bringing nationally renowned parent educator, Jeanine Fitzgerald, to town to talk with parents of children birth to age 8 about this important, and sometimes difficult, topic. Jeanine will speak on Thursday, May 16th from 7:00-8:30 PM at Cunningham Hall, 75 Edgehill Road. Registration is highly recommended by emailing cpcmecasl@verizon.net or calling 617-696-2262. Many thanks to the Milton Junior Woman's Club for this program!

Children's Concert — On June 6th, 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, call 617-696-2262 after 4:00 PM. We'll leave a message if we've postponed the Concert until June 20th. Co-sponsored with the Town of Milton's Parks and Recreation Dept.

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



More on page two!

Do you have a child who will be entering kindergarten in the fall? Now is the time to start thinking about, 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 6th 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 last week in August 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. Click on "School Readiness" under their menu, then on "Countdown to Kindergarten".
- 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".
- And, finally, relax...because if you are relaxed and calm, your child will be as well!



Are you looking for child care or a preschool program for your child? We can help! Give us a call at 617-696-2262 or send us an email at cpcmecasld@verizon.net. We can help you explore options that will best fit the needs of your family. Or, visit our website for a complete listing of child care and preschool programs in Milton along with contact information for the Milton Area Family Child Care Association.



Do you wonder if your child is developing on target for their age? With the **Ages & Stages Questionnaire**, we can help you learn about your child's growth and development and what to look for and expect. We will provide you with a free, age appropriate, questionnaire for you to complete and return for scoring. 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, email cpcmecasld@verizon.net or give us a call at 617-696-2262.

Many thanks to our supporters this past winter!!

Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc., First Congregational Church, Milton Public Library, Adams Street Early Learning Center, Carriage House Schools, Curry College, Curry Early Childhood Center, Milton Area Family Child Care Assoc., Sunshine School, The Campbell School, The Centre School, The Children's Center at Milton Academy, Village School, Collicot PTO, Cunningham PTO, Glover PTO, Tucker PTO, the Friends of Milton Public Library, The Toy Chest at The Nutshell, Eustis Estate Museum, Milton Academy, and the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation.



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