



Milton Early Childhood Alliance Newsletter



Winter, 2018

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

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"Like" us on Facebook:
Milton Early Childhood Alliance

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



~ WIN A BASKET FULL OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS!! ~

We want to hear from you. Help us to better serve Milton's families with young children by completing our Family Survey. Every respondent will be entered into a raffle to win a big basket of children's books. You can access our survey in one of two ways:

Online at <https://goo.gl/Fgb3LA>

OR, scan this QR code on your phone



HAPPENING NOW...always free

Skip and Hop Co-op Winter Play Group

Looking for a place to play during the cold winter months? This parent cooperative, indoor play group is for you! Parents and caregivers **with their children** can play, learn and make new friends. Parents/caregivers, with their infants or children up to five years old, are welcome. Play Group meets weekly on Thursday mornings from 10:30 AM-12:00 PM through March at the First Congregational Church, 495 Canton Avenue in Milton. Registration is not required, but you must sign in upon arrival. Upcoming dates are: January 4, 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15, March 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2018. For more information, [click here](#) and scroll to the Skip and Hop Play Group post or visit our website.

STEM Free Play Fridays

Many Science, Technology, Engineering and Math activities for parents with their young children, ages 3 to 5 years old, have been added to Milton Public Library's Free Play Fridays program. Visit the Children's Room every other Friday morning from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. Activities vary each week. Upcoming winter dates are: January 5 and 19, February 2 and 16, March 2, 16, and 30. Programming will continue through the year—additional dates will be determined soon. Registration is not required, but you must sign in upon arrival. For more information, [click here](#) and scroll to the STEM Free Play Fridays post or visit our website.

Milton Public School Kindergarten Pre-Registration and Registration

It's time to get ready for Kindergarten at Milton Public Schools! Here are some important dates to be aware of if your child will be five years old on or before August 31, 2018: You should pre-register by January 15; attend Kindergarten Information Night on January 23 at 6:30 PM in the auditorium of Milton High School; and register on February 13, 14, and 15, **by appointment only**. If you have questions or would like more information, please email Laurie Dunn at ldunn@miltonps.org or call 617-696-5040.

Learning Through Play Toddler and Preschool Play Group Series

Our Learning Through Play Toddler and Preschool Play Group returns! A facilitator led language and literacy play group for moms, dads, and grandparents **with their children** will be held on Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:00 AM, March 29th through May 3rd, at Discovery Schoolhouse, 101 Blue Hills Parkway in Milton. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** Milton residents will be prioritized. For more information, [click here](#) or visit our website.

UPCOMING...always free

StoryWalk®

Our extremely popular StoryWalk® will return to the Trilside Museum in early April to celebrate Week of the Young Child, and will remain there until late fall. A different children's book will be posted every five weeks. This is a free event, so bring your walking shoes, a snack, and enjoy a unique early literacy adventure! No registration required.

Kindergarten: Your Child's Next Big Step Parent Cafés

Join us for a round-table discussion on preparing your child for kindergarten. Choose **one of two** free parent information sessions being offered. We will answer your questions, discuss what you can do to make the transition easier for both you and your child, talk about behavioral changes you can expect, and distribute handouts to guide you through this next big step in your family's life. More information to follow. Registration will be required and begin in April. To learn more, "Like" us on Facebook or send us an email and ask to join our mailing list.

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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 will explore options with you that best fit the needs of your family. Or, visit our website for a complete listing of child care and preschool programs in Milton.



Learn about your child's growth and development, know what to look for and expect, and determine if your child is on target for their age. Give us a call at 617-696-2262 or email cpmecasl@verizon.net, if interested.



We truly appreciate your support this summer and fall!

- Discovery Schoolhouse
- Blue Hills Trailside Museum
- Brookwood Community Farm
- Cunningham Park
- Curry College Education Dept.
- First Congregational Church
- Historic New England and the Eustis Estate Museum
- Learning Circle Preschool
- Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Milton Public Library
- Milton Public Schools
- Star Market, Quincy Center
- Tucker Elementary School

Summer Camps, Enrichment, Preschool...it's not too early to start planning

Summer Camp for Toddlers and Preschoolers—Some local preschool programs offer summer camp programming. Visit our website at www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org, click on the link for MECA Parent Resource Guide, then Early Education and Care Programs. There you will find a list of all early childhood programs in Milton. Visit their websites or give them a call to see they offer a summer program.

Preschool Open Houses for fall enrollment—this is the season for preschools to hold open houses for fall enrollment. If you are considering entering your child into preschool this fall, follow the information above or give them a call to see when they will be holding their open house for the fall term.

Cunningham Park Playground Program—For children ages 7 to 13. This summer camp program is run by the Milton Parks and Recreation Department for Milton residents. Watch for more information by visiting their website regularly at www.townofmilton.org. Click on Departments and then Parks and Recreation.

Camp Cunningham—This is a summer camp program run by Milton Community Schools for children entering grades 1 through 8 in the fall. Registration begins in March and fills up quickly. Watch for more information by visiting their website regularly at www.miltoncommunityschools.org.

Milton Summer Enrichment Program—For children in grades Pre-K to 8. This summer enrichment program is run by Milton Public Schools. Enrollment usually begins in late April/early May. Watch for more information by visiting their website regularly at www.miltonps.org. Click on Departments, then on Summer Enrichment in the drop down menu.

Summer Camps for Children of All Ages—Check out the extensive Summer Camp listing at Boston Parents Paper. They have a very convenient search engine allowing you to search by miles from home, camp activities, age, etc. Their website is www.bostonparentspaper.com. Click on the link for Camps.

A Child's Typical Road to Literacy...

At 6 months—

A child imitates speech such as na na, ga ga, etc. and enjoys looking at books with simple pictures. **How You Can Help:** Talk, talk, talk, and keep talking! Sing songs. Tell stories. Read books with colorful pictures. It's never too early to start reading to your child.

At 1 year—

A child understands several simple phrases, and speaks one or more words. They love "lift the flap" and "touch" books. **How You Can Help:** Have conversations with them, read interactive books, tell your own stories, and keep talking.

At 2 years—

A child knows about 250 to 350 words, holds books and looks at pictures. **How You Can Help:** Recite nursery rhymes. Visit the library and have your child choose some books that you can read together. Set aside time every day to read to your child. Your child will want you to read the same books over and over again.

At 3 years—

A child knows about 800 to 1,000 words and repeats familiar rhymes. **How You Can Help:** Play rhyming games. Encourage them to tell you a story. Have your child "read" their favorite books to you. Make sure your child has a comfortable place to read. Read their favorite books over again.

At 4 years—

A child uses long sentences, begins to play with words and makes up rhymes. **How You Can Help:** Work on increasing their vocabulary. While reading a story, choose some new words being read and explain what they mean. Try to use the new words around the house in other situations to reinforce the words and their meanings.

At 5 years—

A child knows about 3,000 to 5,000 words, begins to match letters with their sounds, talks in compound sentences and begins to write letters of the alphabet. **How You Can Help:** Work on letter recognition and letter sounds. Choose a letter and see how many words you and your child can say that begin (or end) with that letter. Keep reading to them and with them.

At 6 years—

A child begins to read words, begins to make predictions while reading a story based on pictures and text and can read some things aloud with ease. **How You Can Help:** Read both fiction and nonfiction books. Ask your child what they think might happen next. After reading a book, have your child tell you what happened at the beginning, the middle, and the end of the story.

At 7 years—

A child begins to read words automatically and expands their knowledge by listening to and reading books. **How You Can Help:** Encourage reading (and rereading!) Limit their screen time and read with them. Read chapter books to them, or take turns reading.

At 8 years—

A child reads chapter books and is learning an estimated 3,000 words a year. **How You Can Help:** Keep reading with them. Read books that are above their reading level. This will increase their language growth and vocabulary. Share the reading by taking turns.

Please note: every child develops at their own rate. This information is provided as a guideline only.