

# Spring Newsletter

2025



*Milton Early*

*Childhood Alliance*

Serving families with children birth to age 7  
a program of



**Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc.**

and funded by the MA Dept. of Early  
Education and Care's CFCE Grant



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[www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org](http://www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org)  
We're on Facebook & Instagram at:  
Milton Early Childhood Alliance

## Our Spring Programming...always free!

### StoryWalks® Around Town

**Houghton's Pond** - Enjoy a children's story posted along the inside fencing of the children's playground. You and your child can enjoy a story, play in the playground, and take a walk down to or around the pond! The stories are changed every couple of months and posted year-round! Houghton's Pond is located at 860 Hillside Street in Milton and is open seven days a week, 8:00 AM until sunset.

**Trailside Museum** - Enjoy a children's story posted along the walking path on the grounds of the Trailside Museum. You and your child can stroll around the grounds, visit with the outdoor animals, and read a terrific children's story along the way! The outdoor grounds and exhibits at the Blue Hills Trailside Museum, located at 1904 Canton Avenue in Milton, are open daily 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

StoryWalks® are a very unique and fun early literacy experience which we are sure you and your family will enjoy!

### Stories and Friends Meet Up: Signs of Spring!

Join us for a spring adventure! We'll be learning how to recognize that spring is here, doing some painting, making a caterpillar, decorating a pot to take home and plant a seed, and will going on a spring nature walk looking for signs of spring with Ranger Dan! This program will be held on Saturday, April 26th at 10:30 AM and is for children 2 1/2 to 6 years old with their parent/guardian. We'll meet in the Visitors Center at Houghton's Pond, 860 Hillside Street, Milton. This program will be co-facilitated by an experienced Teacher Naturalist with over 30 years of early childhood experience and state DCR Ranger, Dan. You will be asked to register on arrival. This program will be held rain or shine, so please dress for both indoor and outdoor adventure fun!

*Many thanks to our Kindergarten T-shirt sponsors for their generous support of this program!*



### Kidleidoscope: a children's nature program!

We will be joining Ranger Dan for a fun, interactive nature program! We'll read a book, enjoy a fine motor activity, learn some nature facts, and enjoy a nature walk. This program is held weekly; we will be joining the program on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>! The Kidleidoscope program features a different nature theme, story, and activity on that theme each week. Suitable for children ages 2-5 years old with an adult. Kidleidoscope will meet every Friday morning from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Houghton's Pond Visitors Center, 860 Hillside Street in Milton.





## Getting Ready for Kindergarten Parent Workshop

Will your child be attending kindergarten in the fall? Do you wonder if your child is ready academically, socially, emotionally, or developmentally? Would you like to learn what you can do to make the transition easier for your child and your family? Then, this parent workshop is for you and is open to all parents/caregivers. We will be sharing many tips and helpful hints to help make your child's transition to kindergarten a smooth one! This workshop will be held virtually, via Zoom, from the comfort of your home on Thursday, May 15th at 7:00 PM. Registration is required. To register and obtain the Zoom link and passcode, visit: <https://forms.gle/ujVpNMsuEV7zTlUg8>.

*Many thanks to our Kindergarten T-shirt sponsors for their generous support of this program!*



## Children's Concert

On Wednesday, June 4th, our annual Children's Concert will be held at Baron Hugo Gazebo at Milton's Town Hall at 6:00 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 for an evening of fun! Registration is not required. If it looks like rain, we will post a message on our website here: <http://miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org/home0.aspx> after 4:00 PM stating we've postponed the Concert until June 5th.

*Co-sponsored with the Town of Milton's Parks and Recreation Dept.*



## MANY thanks to our 2025 Kindergarten T-shirt Sponsors!!

Adams Street Early Learning Center, Beth Bourque Design Studio, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Milton, Boston Outdoor Preschool Network, Boston Sensory Solutions, Carriage House Schools, Collicot School PTO, Cunningham School PTO, Curry Ace Paint & Hardware, Dental 1, Discovery Schoolhouse, East Milton Dental, Eustis Estate Museum, Fitness Unlimited, Forbes House Museum, Glover School PTO, Harte Dental, Joe Parlavecchio-Edward Jones, Leading Therapy Home, Little Sprouts, Lopez The Florist, Mel O'Drama School of Acting, Milton Academy, Muscle & Flow, Playa Bowls, Russian School of Mathematics-Milton, Saint Agatha School, Steel & Rye Restaurant, Stella's Breakfast and Lunch, Sunshine School, The Campbell School, The Centre School, The Common Market Restaurants, The Friends of Milton Public Library, The Milton Woman's Club, The Toy Chest at The Nutshell, Tucker School PTO, Unlock Your Potential Tutoring, Village School, William James Gifts, and special thanks to Robinson & Rull Real Estate. We truly thank you all for your generous support!

***PLEASE support our sponsors - we couldn't offer our terrific programming without them!!!***

## Information and Resources for You...

### Milton Public Library Children's Programming

Check out all the fun children's programming the Library is offering this spring! Stop by to enjoy their Story Walk located on the outdoor patios. You can also join the Library staff for storytimes with Night Owls Storytime for ages 3 to 8 on Mondays at 6:30 PM, Ms. Tory's Stories for ages 0 to 5 on Tuesdays at 10:00 or 10:45 AM, Small Wonders for ages 0 to 5 on Wednesdays at 10:00 or 10:45 AM, and Baby Rhyme Time for ages 0 to 12 months every other Friday at 11:00 AM.

Additional programs being offered for various ages are: SPUB Club, Take and Make Crafts, Graphic Novel Book Club, Reading Dogs, Pokemon Club, Afterschool Movie Specials, Children's Author Events with Rachelle & Renaud Alexandre and Jonathan Ronzio, Introduction to Martial Arts, DIY Mother's Day Cards, Cookbook Club for Kids, Mel O'Drama, Plant-a-Garden, a Chalk Party, and a Teddy Bear Picnic with musical guest Music at the Blissful! For more details and registration information, visit their website at: [miltonlibrary.org](http://miltonlibrary.org), click on Events, and use the drop-down menu under All Programs to choose Children's Programs.



## April Spring Vacation Week

For April School Vacation Week 2025 (April 19-25), The Highland Street Foundation is excited to both broaden and introduce new partnerships across Massachusetts. From Cape Cod to Western Mass, Spring Week represents the geographical diversity of our arts & culture community with a week of FREE opportunities! For all information, click here: <https://www.highlandstreet.org>.



## Spring Week










April 21-25, 2025

[www.HighlandStreet.org](http://www.HighlandStreet.org)

*SAT 4/19*	TUE 4/22	WED 4/23	THU 4/24	FRI 4/25
<p>Concord Museum 9 am - 5 pm</p> 	<p>Children's Museum in Easton 9:30 am - 3 pm</p> 	<p>Fuller Craft Museum 10 am - 5 pm</p> 	<p>MIT Museum 10 am - 4:30 pm</p> 	<p>The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art 10 am - 4 pm</p> 
MON 4/21	<p>Real Pirates Salem 10 am - 4 pm</p> 	<p>The Zoo in Forest Park * 10 am - 3 pm</p> 	<p>Edward Gorey House 11 am - 4 pm</p> 	<p>Capron Park Zoo 9 am - 4 pm</p> 
<p>Rose Kennedy Greenway Carousel 11 am - 6 pm</p> 	<p>Spellman Museum of Stamps &amp; Postal History 10 am - 5 pm</p> 	<p>Freedom Trail® Foundation Tours * 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm</p> 	<p>Wenham Museum 10 am - 4 pm</p> 	<p>Cape Cod Museum of Natural History 10 am - 3 pm</p> 

## Welcome Spring!

### Scavenger Hunt!

 Stick	 Ant	 Bird
 Pinecone	 Flower	 Squirrel
 Grass	 Mud	 Leaf

Brought to you by:

Milton Early Childhood Alliance  
a program of Discovery Schoolhouse



# Information and Resources for You...

## Is Your Child Developing on Target for Their Age?

Through the Help Me Grow program, the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) is a FREE, simple tool you can use to find out what your child's strengths are and the areas where they may need more practice. The program is designed specifically for the age of your child anywhere between birth and 5 ½ years old, and can be done multiple times during your child's first five years of life. Simply complete an online Questionnaire in the comfort of your home, then submit it to us for scoring. We'll let you know the results, help you with next steps, if needed, and provide you with fun, simple activities to help with your child's continual growth and development - all for free! Our ASQ online link is: <https://www.asqonline.com/family/8fd7d7>.

## Parents Helping Parents

Empowering parents to nurture children and build stronger families. Trained volunteer counselors offer ways to relieve stress in a sympathetic, non-judgmental way. Support is available 24/7 at 1-800-632-8188 or [www.parentshelpingparents.org](http://www.parentshelpingparents.org).

## Family Friendly Hikes

### The Blue Hills, 1904 Canton Ave., Milton

Use one of the two parking lots by the Trailside Museum, look for their map signage, and follow the red trail to the lookout tower.

### Noon Hill, 164 Noonhill Road, Medfield

Use the roadside parking at the trailhead along this dirt road. Making it to the summit will provide you with a view of Patriot's Place and Gillette Stadium, especially if you go before the leaves are out.

### King Philips's Cave, 91 Mansfield Street, Sharon

Their very small parking lot looks like a dirt driveway, but is a trailhead. The lot is on the odd side of the street.

### Needham Town Forest, end of Robinwood Ave., Needham

Click [this link](#) to download a map, park at the trailhead (marker 12), take the far right trail (Horsford Road), then the first trail to the right at marker 11. Take your time to enjoy this magical (train) trail.

### Purgatory Chasm, 198 Purgatory Road, Sutton

This feels like a mini canyon. Best for ages 5 and up. Across the street are a playground and picnic tables. May or may not charge for parking.

*Adapted from: [communitykangaroo.com](http://communitykangaroo.com)*

## Food Assistance

Milton Public Schools:

call 617-898-1051

email [nperez@miltonps.org](mailto:nperez@miltonps.org)

[www.miltonps.org](http://www.miltonps.org)

Milton Food Pantry:

call 617-696-0221

[www.miltonfoodpantryma.org](http://www.miltonfoodpantryma.org)

Project Bread:

call hotline 1-800-645-8333

[www.projectbread.org](http://www.projectbread.org)

WIC - Women, Infants & Children

call Quincy's office 617-376-8701

<https://www.bamsi.org/bamsi-kids/wic/>

Interfaith Social Services

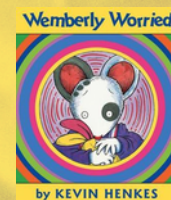
call 617-773-6203 x19

<https://interfaithsocialservices.org/>

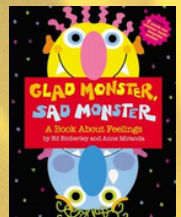
## Little Children Have Big Feelings, Too Book Suggestions...



**The Grouchy Ladybug**  
by Eric Carle



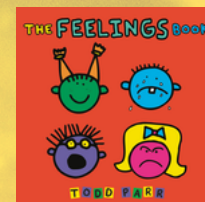
**Wemberly Worried**  
By Kevin Henkes



**Glad Monster, Sad Monster**  
By Ed Emberley



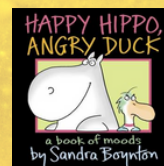
**My Many Colored Days**  
By Dr. Seuss



**The Feelings Book**  
By Todd Parr



**Lots of Feelings**  
By Shelley Rotner



**Happy Hippo, Angry Duck**  
By Sandra Boynton



**The Pigeon Has Feelings, Too!**  
By Mo Willems



# Information and Resources for You...

## Are you looking for childcare? If so, we can help!

Just email [cpcmecasld@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasld@verizon.net), let us know the age of your child, and we'll provide you with comprehensive information on all state licensed childcare programs and family childcare providers in town, surrounding cities and towns, or via your driving route.

## Do you have a child going to camp or a summer program? They'll need name tags and clothing labels!

*Mabel's Labels is having a 20% off sale!*

There are labels for water bottles, lunch boxes, backpacks, clothing, personal items, etc.

And, when you make a purchase, you'll be supporting the *Milton Early Childhood Alliance*!!

Simply visit [Mabels Labels](http://MabelsLabels.com), type in Milton Early Childhood Alliance, and start shopping.

Shipping is free!!

*Also could be used by those in senior housing, assisted living or nursing homes!*

## Did You Know?

If you read just 1 book a day to your child, they will have read 1,825 books by their 5th birthday!!



## The Basics

Check out [The Basics](#), a non-profit organization that provides strategies for supporting vibrant learning and bolstering children's brain development. Strategies/tips are available for children birth to 60 months old.

## Local Resources

The Milton Early Childhood Alliance maintains a comprehensive online Milton Parents Resource Manual, filled with a myriad of information for parents and families. Check out our website at [www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org](http://www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org).

## Playgrounds in and Around Boston

Spring is in the air and a great time to help your children work on their fine and gross motor development at a playground!

### Andrews Park

Belcher Circle, Milton

### Shields Park

392 Eliot Street, Milton

### Mary C. Lane Playground

236 Randolph Avenue, Milton

### Kelly Field

250 Brook Road, Milton

### Cunningham Park

75 Edge Hill Road, Milton

### Mayor Thomas M. Menino Park

300 First Ave., Charlestown

### Uncle Frank & Auntie Kay Chin Park

John F. Fitzgerald Surface Rd., Chinatown, Boston

### Jackson Square Park

1516 Columbus Ave., Jamaica Plain

### Martin's Park

Children's Wharf, Boston Seaport District

### Paris Street Playground

115 Paris St., East Boston

### Esplanade Playground

Esplanade on the Charles River, Boston

### Hunt Almont Playground

Almont and Orlando Street, Mattapan

### Sweeney Playground

177 West 5th St., South Boston

### Little Scobie Playground

42 Copeland St., Roxbury

### Alexander W. Kemp Playground

36 Waterhouse St. Cambridge

### Chuckie Harris Playground

3-17 Cross St., Somerville

### Hoyt-Sullivan Playground

115 Central St., Somerville

### Beaver Brook Playground

Ralph G Hamlin Junior Lane, Abington

*Portion Adapted from [momypoppins.com](http://mommypoppins.com)*

We are very grateful to the First Congregational Church for their generous support of our office space.

