

# Summer Newsletter

2024



## Milton Early Childhood Alliance

a program of  
Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc.

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



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Website:

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

Like us on Facebook & Instagram at:  
Milton Early Childhood Alliance

## Our Summer Programming...always free!

### StoryWalk® at Houghton's Pond



Enjoy our latest StoryWalk® posted on the fencing around the children's playground at Houghton's Pond! Play for a while, take a walk around the pond, bring a picnic lunch, and enjoy a great children's story, too! A StoryWalk® is a self-guided, unique, and fun way to enjoy a children's story book outdoors. The pages of a story are laminated and posted in areas that are child-friendly. The pages are numbered so you don't lose your place! Houghton's Pond is located at 860 Hillside Street in Milton and is open daily, dawn to dusk.

### 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! We will be sharing many tips and helpful hints to 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 Wednesday, July 10th at 7:00 PM. Registration is required. To register and obtain the Zoom link and passcode, visit: <https://forms.gle/Q7uwqGunnngnKLZY6A>.



### Summertime Stories

In collaboration with Milton Public Library and Milton Public Schools, join us for fun stories and songs! For families with their children birth to six years old. Four different sessions will be held: July 11th and August 1st at 10:00 AM at Cunningham Park, 75 Edge Hill Road, and July 25th and August 22nd at 10:00 AM at Tucker School Playground, 187 Blue Hills Pkwy. Registration is not required, however; you will be asked to sign in upon arrival.

*Many thanks to the Friends of Milton Public Library for distributing free gently used books (while supplies last) and to the team of Robinson and Rull of William Raveis Real Estate for distributing free popsicles, (while supplies last)!*



# Continued: Our Summer Programming...always free!



## Stories and Friends Meet Up: Exploring a Pond

Join us for a STEM pond adventure, listen to stories, and make new friends! We'll have fun, interactive activities set up to help with learning about flowers, frogs, and pond life! We'll be painting, gluing, racing, and searching, so please dress accordingly. This program will be held on Wednesday, August 14th at 3:00 PM and is for children 2 1/2 to 6 years old with their parent/guardian. We'll meet at the duck pond located in Milton Cemetery and Arboretum, 211 Centre Street in Milton. Use the side entrance next to the office and keep straight until you see the pond. Registration is not required; however, you will be asked to sign in upon arrival. For inclement weather, check the home page of our website for updates by noontime at [www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org](http://www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org).

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

## Kindergarten Days

Kindergarten Days returns from August 25th through August 31st! During this week, some local business sponsors will offer free gifts or discounts to children entering kindergarten this fall. You don't need to turn anything in to take advantage of the offers - however, your child must be present, entering kindergarten this September, and wearing their yellow "I'm Going to Kindergarten!" t-shirt. As you visit each sponsor, please join us in thanking them for their support of Milton's young school children! A list of participating sponsors will be available on our website at [www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org](http://www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org) by mid-August.

## Getting Ready for Kindergarten Activity Calendars

Help your child get ready for kindergarten with our Summer Activity Calendars for July and August! Each week day includes one fun activity for children to do with their family, along with a weekly story to be enjoyed together. Calendars can be found on our website at [www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org](http://www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org) or click on each calendar below:

LET'S GET READY FOR KINDERGARTEN! JULY 2024					
STORIES	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	1 Sing two songs.	2 Practice writing letters on table with shaving cream.	3 Cut up a magazine picture and put the pieces back together.	4 Read a book to someone by describing the pictures.	5 Name five animals you might find near where you live.
	6 Tell someone 5 things you like about yourself.	7 <b>PLAY</b> "I Spy" by finding things that begin with a specific letter sound.	8 Draw a picture using 2 circles, 1 square, and 3 triangles.	9 Play a game that involves taking turns.	10 Visit a museum or aquarium.
	11 Say the alphabet 2 times.	12 Jog in place for 1 minute. Can you feel your heart beating?	13 Let 6 things taller than a house.	14 Finish this sentence: I help my family when I ...	15 Cut some straws into smaller pieces and count the pieces.
	16 Play a board game that involves taking turns.	17 Practice skipping and buttoning.	18 Here a slice of watermelon. Count how many seeds it has.	19 Learn the four days of the week.	20 Name the four seasons and draw a summer picture.
	21 Name 5 things that can fly.	22 Practice tying shoes.	23 Draw a curly line on the ground and try to walk along it.	Milton Early Childhood Alliance	

LET'S GET READY FOR KINDERGARTEN! AUGUST 2024					
STORIES	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Milton Early Childhood Alliance a program of Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc. and funded through the MA Dept. of Early Education and Care's CCEC Grant					
	1 Go on a shape walk and look for circles, triangles, and squares.	2 Count the chairs in your house.	3 See how many colors you can find in your bedroom.	4 Name the colors of the rainbow.	5 Plant a seed and watch it grow.
	6 Name 6 things that are smaller than a book.	7 Practice cutting straight, curved, and zigzag lines.	8 Draw pictures with colored pencils.	9 Make faces that show happy, mad, sad, scared, etc.	10 Help set the table and count the total number of items on the table.
	11 Pretend you are going to the beach and name what you would bring.	12 Practice opening and closing your lunch box.	13 Practice your name and address.	14 Practice your name and address again.	15 Count how many books you read today.
	16 Practice zipping and buttoning (again).	17 Use playdough to squish it, roll it, pinch it, twist it!	18 Count the letters in your name.	19 Visit the Library and read books about Kindergarten.	20 Bounce and catch a ball while counting out loud.

July: <https://tinyurl.com/4xwhrs43>

August: <https://tinyurl.com/mr2xdc9k>



# Our Upcoming Programming – look for these soon!

## Stories and Friend Meet Up: Animals in Our Backyard

This STEM program will help children learn about owls, squirrels, and other animals that live in our backyard. We'll be lacing, gluing, painting, and creating, so please dress accordingly. We will meet at the Visitors Center at Houghton's Pond on 860 Hillside Street in Milton on Saturday, September 14th at 10:30 AM. This program is for children 2 1/2 to 6 years old *with their parent/guardian*. Registration is not required; however, you will be asked to sign in upon arrival. For inclement weather, we will post an update on the home page of our website at [www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org](http://www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org).

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

## Welcome Baby Infant Playgroup Series

Join us and Facilitator Sheryl White of Baby Kneads, as we discuss and learn about infant development, nutrition, baby massage, what to expect, sleep habits/patterns, infant sign language, bonding & attachment, and non-verbal cues. Time will be provided to ask questions, socialize, and make new friends! We will meet on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 from October 1st through November 5th in the Parlor of the First Congregational Church, 495 Canton Avenue in Milton. You will be asked to complete the Ages & Stages Questionnaire, which will provide you with information on your child's current growth and development. Registration is required and can be completed here: <https://forms.gle/EQtovSufDexUpRmAA>.

## Milton Public Library Happenings

Don't forget about the Milton Public Library's terrific Summer Reading Program: Read, Renew, Repeat! Keep reading and logging your minutes on [miltonlibrary.beanstack.org](http://miltonlibrary.beanstack.org). You will receive virtual badges and win great prizes!!

Check out all the fun children's programming the Library is offering this summer! Stop by to enjoy their Story Walk, located on the outdoor patios, as well as challenges and activities found at the Children's Room center activity table. 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. Join Library Staff for storytime at the Milton Farmer's Market on select Thursday afternoons at 4pm as well. Additional daily summer programs for various ages are: a Sub Zero Ice Cream presentation, Mel O'Drama, Art with Sue, One Up Games, Mad Science, Toddler Drive-In, Reading Dogs, Cooks and Books, Reader's Theater, and much more! 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.



# Milton Early Childhood Alliance



# Resources and Information

## Do you have a child going to camp...childcare...after school activities?

25%\* off sale going on now; shipping is free!!

Mabel's Labels is a terrific source for your clothing label needs! There are also labels for water bottles, lunch boxes, backpacks, personal items, etc. And, when you make a purchase, you'll be supporting the Milton Early Childhood Alliance!! Simply visit this website: [campaigns.mabelslabels.com](http://campaigns.mabelslabels.com), type in Milton Early Childhood Alliance, and start shopping. Labels could also be used by those in senior housing, assisted living and/or nursing homes, or childcare programs!

\*25% off select items; sale ends 7/31/24.



## 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 licensed center based programs and family childcare providers in town, in surrounding cities and towns, or via your driving route.

## Did You Know?

If you read just 1 book to your child every day, your child will have enjoyed over 1,450 books before entering kindergarten? It's a great gift to give to a child!!



## Summer Eats

Free Meals for All Children! Summer Eats is a totally free-of-charge program that provides free meals to all children and teens, under the age of 18, at MA locations during the summer months. NO registration or identification is required - you may go to any location listed on the map. For all information and a map of locations, click here:

<https://projectbread.org/summer-eats-program>

## Do you have a child 3 mos. to 5 years old? Check to see if they are on target for their age!

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 3 months and 5 ½ years old, and can be done multiple times during your child's first five years of life. Simply complete a Questionnaire in the comfort of your home and submit it to us online for scoring. We'll let you know the results, help you with next steps, and provide you with fun, simple activities to help with your child's continual growth and development. Our ASQ online link is: <https://www.asqonline.com/family/8fd7d7>

## Hotlines and Help Centers

Poison Control.....	1-800-222-1222
Stressed or depressed.....	833-773-2445
Mental/substance abuse.....	1-800-662-4357
Suicide Prevention dial.....	988
Life-threatening situations dial.....	911
LGBTQ help.....	1-866-488-7386
or text.....	678-678
Safelink Domestic violence.....	1-877-785-2020
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center.....	1-800-841-8371
MA 211 for other assistance dial.....	211



# Continued: Resources and Information

## Bookworm Wednesdays

A fun and rewarding summer reading program is available at select Showcase Cinemas to encourage summer reading. Kids will receive a free admission to select films each Wednesday in July with a completed book report. Accompanying parents or guardians, and children under six years of age, receive free admission and do not need to submit a book report. For more information

click here:

<https://www.showcasecinemas.com/programs/6075-bookworm-wednesdays/>



## Kids Bowl Free

Children can enjoy 2 free games of bowling each day this summer! Provided by select bowling centers, this program is designed to give back to the community and provide a safe, secure, and fun way for kids to spend time this summer. The closest participating bowling locations are Boston, Dedham, and Hanover. For all details and locations click here:

<https://www.kidsbowlfree.com/index.php>

## Milton Summer Concert Series!

At the Baron Hugo Gazebo at Town Hall, 525 Canton Ave. on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 PM. In case of inclement weather, please call 617-898-4940 after 5:00 p.m. for updates. Rain date is August 14.

June 26-Curragh's Fancy

July 3-Canton American Legion

July 10-Black Velvet Band

July 17-Riverside Theatre Works Starring Mixed Emotions and Mia Bellas

July 24-Electric Dreams Starring Chuck Palmer

July 31-Neville Sisters

August 7-Erin's Melody



## Summer Flicks at the Prudential Center!!

Enjoy free outdoor movies on Prudential Center's South Garden every Saturday starting on July 13th. Bring a blanket and enjoy children's entertainment starting at 6 PM.

All movies will begin at dusk. No pre-registration needed to attend. Movies are:

July 13-Legally Blonde

July 20-The Marvels

July 27-Elemental

August 3-The Princess and the Frog

August 10-National Treasure

August 17-Migration

August 24-The Little Mermaid



For all details and more information, click here:

<https://www.prudentialcenter.com/experiences/events/summer-flicks/>

## Summer in the City Entertainment Series!

A free live music series at the Boston Harbor Hotel. On Tuesdays through Fridays, from June 6th - August 29th. Different bands will perform nightly on the hotel's floating barge stage. Music programs will include jazz, soul, country, R&B, DJ, and more. Located at the Harborwalk Terrace and Rows Wharf Sea Grille. For more information and the complete lineup, click here:

<https://www.thebostoncalendar.com/events/summer-in-the-city-at-the-harborwalk>

## Highland Street Foundation August Adventures

Offered annually through the Highland Street Foundation, visit museums statewide for free! There will be 31 days of 31 different locations to visit. Click here for their calendar of 2024 events.

[August Adventures | Highland Street Foundation](#)



## Home Depot In-Store Kids Workshops

Home Depot is offering free kids workshops! Visit any Home Depot and children will be provided with a DIY kit to make/build a project and take it home. Kids workshops are available on the first Saturday of each month between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Kits are available at each session while supplies last.

# Milton Early Childhood Alliance



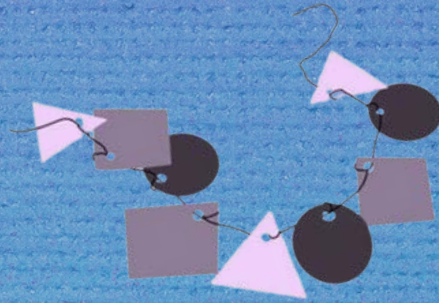
# GREAT SUMMER ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN

## Shapes and Colors Scavenger Hunt!

### Project Learning Tree's The Shape of Things

#### Supplies Needed:

colored paper or construction paper  
scissors  
hole punch  
string or pipe cleaner



#### Instructions:

Creating a shape necklace or bracelet:

- Draw (or have children trace) different shapes (circles, triangles, squares, rectangles, etc.) onto various colored paper so each shape is a different color.
- Write (or help children write) the shape names on each shape cutout and punch a hole in it.
- Thread a piece of string or pipe cleaner through each shape so that it forms a loop fitting easily over a child's head or loosely on their wrist.

#### Then, head outside to investigate:

- Ask your child "What is your favorite shape?" Challenge children to find it in nature.
- Ask children to find objects the same shape and/or color as the ones on their necklace.
- Play the "I Spy" guessing game: "I spy something shaped like a\_\_\_\_\_." Can you find it?" Or, "I spy something red. Which shape do you have that is red?" Or, "Can you find something shaped like your yellow square?"
- Hold up each shape and have children name all the outdoor items they can find to match their shape or color.
- This is a game that can be played indoors, outdoors, or even in the car on a long ride. Shapes and colors are everywhere - have fun!

Adapted from:  PROJECT  
LEARNING  
TREE





## Splash Pads and Wading Pools

### Near Milton:

Olsen Spray Deck, 95 Turtle Pond Parkway, Hyde Park  
Ryan Splash Pad, 95 Turtle Pond Parkway, Hyde Park  
Kincaid Park Splash Pad, 332 Water Street, Quincy  
Taffrail Road Splash Pad, 144 Taffrail Road, Quincy  
Martin/Hilltop Playground, 95 Myrtlebank Avenue, Boston  
Dorothy Curran Water Sprays at Moakley Park, 1005  
Columbia Road, Boston  
Neponset Landing II Spray Deck, 72 Hill Top Street, Boston  
John T. Moynihan Spray Deck, 920 Truman Parkway, Hyde  
Park

### In and Around Boston:

Frog Pond Spay Pool, Boston Common, 40 Beacon Street,  
Boston  
Frog Pond Tot Lot, Boston Common, 139 Tremont Street,  
Boston  
Rings Fountain, Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston  
Charlesbank Wading Pool, 280 Charles Street, Boston  
Artesani Spray Deck and Wading Pool, 1255 Soldiers Field  
Road, Brighton  
Beaver Brook Spray Deck, 621 Trapelo Road, Belmont  
Martin's Water Park Garden, 64 Sleeper Street, Boston  
Stonybrook Spray Deck, 2 Lamartine Place, Jamaica Plain  
Splash Fountain, Christian Science Plaza, Belvedere Street  
side, Boston  
Danehy Park Spray Pad, 99 Sherman Street, Cambridge  
North Point Park Spray Deck, Education Circle, Cambridge  
Rose Kennedy Greenway North Canal Fountain, Cross  
Street/North End, Boston  
Rose Kennedy Greenway Rings Fountain Aquarium, Atlantic  
Avenue/Milk Street, Boston



## DCR Movies in the Park

Castle Island, 2010 William J. Day Blvd., Boston; all  
movies begin at sundown. Movies are:

7/17-Ferris Bueller's Day Off

7/24-Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant  
Mayhem

7/31-Elemental

8/7-Wonka

8/14-ET

8/21-Barbie

8/28-Ghostbuster's Frozen Empire

For more information or to verify dates and times,  
click here: [DCR Movies in the Parks | Mass.gov](#)

The Esplanade, Storrow Drive, Boston; all movies  
begin at sundown. Movies are:

7/12-Ferris Bueller's Day Off

7/19-Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant  
Mayhem

7/26-Elemental

8/2-Wonka

8/9-ET

8/16-Barbie

8/23-Ghostbuster's Frozen Empire

For more information or to verify dates and times,  
click here: [DCR Movies in the Parks | Mass.gov](#)



## The Lot Movie Nights

The LOT On the Dot, 383 Dorchester Ave. in  
Boston is offering free movies on Thursdays  
from July 18 through September 12th.  
Admission is free; drinks and snacks will be  
available for purchase. Arrive early to enjoy  
games before the movie begins. Bring your  
own chairs and blankets for extra comfort;  
limited seats will be available. Movie are:

July 18, 8:30 PM-Up

August 1, 8:00 PM-Frozen

August 15, 8:00 PM-Toy Story

August 29, 8:00 PM-Sandlot

September 12, 7:00 PM (doors open at 6:00)-

Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour

For all details and more information, click  
here:

<https://lotonthedot.com/movie-nights/>

## Boston Parks Movie Nights

Part of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's  
ParkARTS program, free movies will be held in various  
areas of Boston. All movies begin at dusk. Free popcorn will  
be provided while supplies last. Movies will have the closed  
captions visible on-screen where available. For more  
information and a complete list of all movies being shown  
in each location (Dorchester, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain,  
Roslindale, West Roxbury, Roxbury, South End, Charlestown,  
East Boston, and Boston Common Frog Pond), click here:

[https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-  
recreation/parks-movie-nights](https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks-movie-nights)

# Milton Early Childhood Alliance



# Continued: Resources and Information

## THE ANCHOR SUMMER MOVIE SERIES

Breathe in the fresh air, take in the views of the Charlestown Naval Yard, and enjoy nights full of laughter, good company, and a great movie at The Anchor's open-air courtyard on Wednesday nights. The movies are:

- 6/19-42
- 6/26-The Devil Wears Prada
- 7/3-4th of July-Top Gun
- 7/10-Dirty Dancing
- 7/17-In The Heights
- 7/24-Shark Week-Jaws
- 7/31-The Goonies
- 8/7-Mamma Mia
- 8/14-Knives Out
- 8/21-Barbie
- 8/28-Back to the Future

For more information and all details, click here:  
<https://www.meetboston.com/blog/post/free-outdoor-movies/>

## SUMMER FLICKS AT PATRIOT PLACE

This summer, Patriot Place hosts movie nights outside of the Patriot Place Hotel on Wednesdays. Get there early for some pre-show entertainment, wait for the sun to set, and enjoy a summer flick under the stars.

- 6/19-Soul
- 7/10-Barbie
- 7/24-Ratatouille
- 8/7-Wonka
- 8/14-Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie
- 8/28: Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny

For more information and all details, click here:  
<https://www.meetboston.com/blog/post/free-outdoor-movies/>

## Did you know?

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

The Milton Early Childhood Alliance is funded through the CFCE grant from the MA Dept. of Early Education & Care



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



## Summertime Book Suggestions



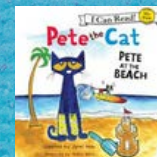
**Goldfish on Vacation**  
by Sally Lloyd-Jones



**Summer is Here**  
by Renée Watson



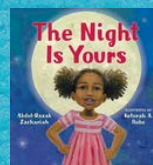
**A House for Hermit Crab**  
By Eric Carle



**Pete the Cat: Pete at the Beach**  
By James Dean



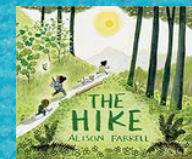
**Sun**  
By Sam Usher



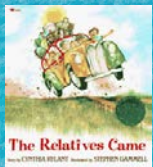
**The Night is Yours**  
By Abdul-Razak Zachariah



**The Storm Book**  
By Charlotte Zolotow



**The Hike**  
By Alison Farrell



**The Relatives Came**  
By Cynthia Rylant