

Winter Newsletter

2024



Milton Early Childhood Alliance

a program of

Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc.

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



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



Our Winter Programming...always FREE!

Learning Through Play Preschool Playgroup Series

Our incredibly popular Playgroup series returns! Join us for a fun, interactive, and engaging 8-week Preschool Playgroup Series, which will focus on children's language, social/emotional, and fine and gross motor skills. Open to residents of Milton, Quincy, and Randolph with funding from the Beth Israel Deaconess-Milton Community Health Grant. We will meet on Saturdays, February 3rd through March 23rd, 2024 from 10:00-11:30 AM at 101 Blue Hills Parkway in Milton. This program is for children who are 3 years old, 4 years old, and 5 years old (IF they missed the kindergarten entrance deadline last September), with their parent/guardian. It will be facilitated by Dotty Alexander, Ed.D., Professor of Education at Curry College. Completion of the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) will be required for each child you would like to register. Completion of the ASQ will serve as pre-registration for this playgroup series. You will receive a link to finish registration once the completed ASQ is received by us (this may take a few days). The link to complete the ASQ is: <https://www.asqonline.com/family/8fd7d7>. Feel free to email cpcmecasl@verizon.net with questions.

This program is funded through the Beth Israel Deaconess-Milton Community Health Grant.



Animals in Winter - Stories and Friends STEAM Series



We're learning about what happens to animals in winter! Where do they go? What do they eat? How do they stay warm? How can you tell they are there? We'll have stories, songs, and activities included in this program to help make the learning interactive and fun. We'll be stamping, painting, decorating, gluing, and tracing, so please dress accordingly for an indoor and outdoor program. Meet Ranger Dan, who will take the children on an adventure looking for animal tracks. This program will be held on Saturday, January 20th at 10:30 AM and is for children 2 1/2 to 6 years old with their parent/guardian. We'll meet in the Visitor's Center at Houghton's Pond, 860 Hillside Street in Milton. Registration is not required; however, you will be asked to sign in upon arrival. If weather requires postponement, we will post a message on the home page of our website, www.milonearlychildhoodalliance.org, by 8:00 AM that morning.

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

Yoga for Kids



Join us for a fun introduction to yoga for children ages 3 to 5 years old! Children will enjoy meeting other children, learning yoga poses to help with body regulation, strengthening their gross and fine motor skills, and having fun. This program will include a story, breathing exercises, yoga poses, and games. We will meet on Tuesday, January 30th at 10:30 AM at Discovery Schoolhouse, 101 Blue Hills Pkwy. in Milton. If you have a yoga mat, feel free to bring it; if not, we will have some available to use. This program is for children *with their parent/guardian*. Registration is required and can be completed here <https://forms.gle/fw bz18BD4fPQmeRp8>. Program facilitator will be Jenny Robberson of Freckle Face Yoga.

Many thanks to Laura Spring from Coldwell Banker for sponsoring this program!



Story Walk at Houghton's Pond

Unfortunately, our Story Walk was destroyed in the recent storm by a large, beautiful, 300 year old oak tree which toppled down on top of the fencing and story boards. We are working hard to bring it back as soon as possible, so please check back regularly for its return. The Story Walk is typically posted inside the fencing around the children's playground at Houghton's Pond at 860 Hillside Street in Milton.

Kindergarten Pre-registration and Information Night



Kindergarten Pre-registration and Information Night! If your child will be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2024, it's time to pre-register for Milton Public Schools Kindergarten and plan to attend their virtual Kindergarten Information Night. To pre-register for Kindergarten, click [here](#). Save the date for Kindergarten Information Night, being held on Thursday, January 25th at 6:30 PM. A link to join the virtual presentation will be posted to the district webpage, www.miltonps.org, and emailed to families who have completed pre-registration (link above), closer to the event. Please contact Marti O'Keefe McKenna at mmckenna@miltonps.org or 617-980-7343 with any questions you might have.



“Pete The Cat” Author Event

The Milton Public Library Speaker series is bringing the original author of the hugely popular children’s book series, Pete the Cat, to town on Saturday, February 10th. Meet Eric Litwin, the original author of the Pete the Cat series as well as the author of The Nuts, Groovy Joe, and The Poop Song. This event is free, open to the public, and will be held at Pierce Middle School, 451 Central Avenue in Milton. The author presentation will run from 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM with a book signing following the presentation. All ages welcome. Advance registration is encouraged as there are only 300 spaces available for this terrific event! Registration can be completed [here](#) or on the Milton Public Library website at miltonlibrary.org.

Milton Public Library Happenings

Check out all of the fun children’s programming the Library is offering this winter! Stop by to enjoy their Story Walk, located on the outdoor patios, as well as 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, Baby Rhyme Time for ages 0 to 12 months every other Friday at 11:00 AM, and Saturday Sillies, a weekly rotation of activities for ages 0-5, on Saturdays at 10:00 AM.

Additional programs being offered for various ages are: SPUB Club, Take and Make Crafts, Reading Dogs, Nintendo Switch Tournament, STEM Makerspace Play, Author Event with Winter Miller, Tiny Art Show, Write with Hallie! Writer in Residence for Kids, Wee Wear the Crowns, French Storytime, Stuffed Animal Sleepover, and an Author Performance with the original author of Pete the Cat: Eric Litwin (MPL Speaker Series)! For more details and registration information, visit their website at: miltonlibrary.org, click on Events, and use the drop-down menu under All Programs to choose Children’s Programs.

CHILD CARE

Just email cpcmecasLd@verizon.net, let us know the age of your child, and we’ll send you comprehensive information on all licensed childcare programs and family child care providers in town, surrounding cities and towns, or via your driving route.

RESOURCES

The Milton Early Childhood Alliance maintains a comprehensive Milton Parents Resource Manual, filled with a myriad of information for parents and families. Check out our website at www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org.

Look for our NEW user & mobile friendly website coming soon!





Is Your Child Developing on Target for Their Age?

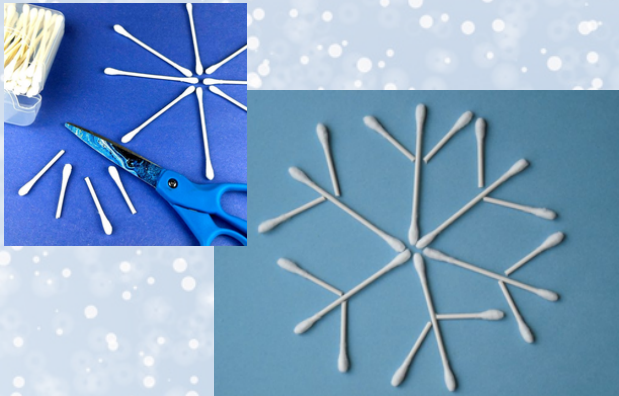
Through the Help Me Grow program, the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) is a FREE, simple tool you can use to find out what your child's strengths are and the areas where they may need more practice. The program is designed specifically for the age of your child anywhere between birth and 5 ½ years old, 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>.

Office Hours with Milton's Community Social Worker

Did you know that Anne Grossman, MSW, LICSW, Community Social Worker with the Milton Health Department, holds office hours every Tuesday in the Conference Room at Milton Public Library? Anne will be there to answer your questions every Tuesday from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. You may drop-in or make an appointment in advance by calling 617-898-4887 or by emailing agrossman@townofmilton.org.

Fine Motor Activity



Cotton Swab Snowflakes

What you'll need:

- 12 (or more) cotton swabs
- glue: liquid or stick
- pieces of colored paper
- scissors
- ribbon or string

What your child will do:

- Cut cotton swabs to various lengths (younger children may need more help than older children).
- Lay the cotton swab pieces out on the colored paper until your child has achieved their desired design. Let your child lead this activity.
- Glue down each swab piece in place (younger children may need more help than older children).
- Make a hole in colored paper, add ribbon or string, and hang.

Mabel's Labels

Do you use clothing labels for back to school, sports, childcare or after school programs, senior housing, assisted living and/or nursing homes?

Consider using Mabel's Labels! They also have labels for water bottles, lunch boxes, personal items, etc.

When you make a purchase, you'll be supporting us!!

Simply visit:

www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com
type in Milton Early Childhood Alliance,
and start shopping.
Shipping is free!!



Food Assistance

Milton Public Schools:

call 617-898-1051

email nperez@miltonps.org

Milton Food Pantry:

call 617-696-0221

www.miltonfoodpantryma.org

Project Bread:

call hotline 1-800-645-8333

www.projectbread.org

WIC - Women, Infants & Children

call Quincy's office 617-376-8701

www.wic.bamsi.org/

Interfaith Social Services

call 617-773-6203 x19

www.interfaithsocialservices.org/food



Parents Helping Parents

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 on their website at: www.parentshelpingparents.org.

Five Great Sledding Hills on the South Shore (from The Patriot Ledger)

Coast Guard Hill, Marshfield - This popular sledding spot, at 900 Ferry St., is maintained by the town's recreation department. Hay bales are placed in front of trees to keep sledders from being injured. The long hike to the top of the hill is well worth making - for a couple of reasons. You can take in a beautiful view of the ocean, then ride down the 200-foot- slope.

South Shore Country Club, Hingham - South Shore Country Club contains a variety of hills. The golf course is largely free of trees, so there are lots of wide-open expanses for sledding. Check out the hills near the club entrance on South Street, or park on Fort Hill Street for the biggest slopes.

First Parish Church, Norwell - This hill is well-suited for those who have young children or are looking for a slower, easier ride. The spacious field, at 24 River St., has plenty of fenced-in space for sledding, and you can park in the church lot.

Borderland State Park, Easton - The hill behind the Ames Mansion has been a popular sledding spot for years. If pulling your sled up the hill isn't enough exercise for you, you can also hike the park's many trails or have a snowball fight in the spacious fields. Parking is \$5 for Massachusetts residents.

Presidents Golf Course - This golf course, on the Quincy-Milton border, is another location that provides clear paths for adventurous sledders. Its multiple hills make it a popular local spot, sure to be busy after a snowfall.

Also check out this interactive sledding map of the area from Community Kangaroo!!

<https://communitykangaroo.com/braintree/sledding/>

Great Winter Books for Children



Sneezy the Snowman
by Maureen Wright



Red Sled by
Lita Judge



The Mitten by
Jan Brett



Froggy Gets Dressed by
Jonathan London



The Snowy Day by
Ezra Jack Keats



Owl Moon by
Jane Yolen

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



**Our
annual
Fundraiser!**



Our 2023 T-shirt sponsors - THANK YOU!

Be a Kindergarten T-Shirt Sponsor!

If you are a local business, or know someone who is, and is interested in reaching over 460 families with young children, then consider being a kindergarten t-shirt sponsor!

Sponsorships are available at two price points - small font or large font. Your business name will be printed on the back of every kindergarten t-shirt distributed to children entering kindergarten next fall at Milton Public Schools, St. Agatha School, Milton Academy, and Discovery Schoolhouse. Your generous contribution is tax deductible and will support vital programming not covered in our grant, supplies, and materials for our story times, playgroups, and seasonal family events!! Feel free to contact us at cpcmecasLd@verizon.net for more information or [click here for sponsorship form](#) or scan this QR code:

