

Fall 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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We're on on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#) at:
Milton Early Childhood Alliance

Our Fall Programming...always free!

Story Walks

Story Walk at Houghton's Pond - enjoy a terrific children's story with your family outdoors in nature!! We have posted a children's story on the fencing around the playground at Houghton's Pond, near their Visitor's Center building. Play in the playground, enjoy the grounds, and read a story while you are there! Houghton's Pond is open daily from dawn to dusk and located at 860 Hillside Street in Milton.

Story Walk at Trailside Museum - enjoy a great children's story with your family outdoors in nature!! We have posted a children's story on the fencing that encircles the walking path at the Trailside Museum. Walk their grounds, visit with the animals, bring a snack to enjoy at their picnic tables, and read a story while you are there! The Trailside Museum's outdoor grounds are free, open daily 9:00-4:00, and located at 1904 Canton Avenue in Milton.

What is a StoryWalk®? It's a self-guided, unique, and fun way to enjoy a children's story book outdoors. Pages of a book are laminated to protect them from the weather and posted in areas of town that are child-friendly. And, the pages are numbered so you don't lose your way!

Photo: Jake installing the Story Walk at the Trailside Museum.



Welcome Baby Infant Series

SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE! Join us and Facilitator Sheryl White of Baby Kneads, as we discuss and learn about baby massage, infant sign language, infant development, bonding & attachment, nutrition, what to expect, sleep habits/patterns, 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>.



Continued: Our Fall Programming...always free!

Stories and Friends Meet Up: Getting Ready for Winter

Join us for a woody STEM adventure, listen to stories, and make new friends! We'll have fun, interactive, hands-on activities set up to help with learning about how animals get ready for winter! Meet Ranger Dan, who will take everyone on a scavenger hunt around the grounds looking for signs of animals getting ready for winter! Some hands-on activities may be messy, so please dress accordingly. This program will be held on Saturday, November 16th at 10:30 AM and is for children 2 1/2 to 6 years old with their parent/guardian. We'll meet at 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. This program will be held in light rain. If we decide to postpone due to weather, we will put a notice on the home page of our website at www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org.

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



Watch for our Upcoming Preschool Playgroup Registration!

Our long-running and highly anticipated Learning Through Play Preschool Playgroup Series will return in February and March! Watch for further details and registration in early January. Professor Dotty Alexander will be heading up the team once again. We'll be meeting on Saturday mornings at Discovery Schoolhouse for fun learning through play. Learning At Home Extension Activity bags will be distributed weekly. Completion of the Ages & Stages Questionnaire will be required. *This Playgroup series is funded through the Milton Hospital Community Health Grant.*



Milton Public Library Happenings

Check out all the fun children's programming the Library is offering this fall! Stop by to enjoy their Story Walk of The Leaf Thief by Alice Hemming, 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, 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 (starting October 5).

Additional programs being offered for various ages are: SPUB Club, Take and Make Crafts, Graphic Novel Book Club, Reading Dogs, Pokemon Club, Mad Science, Cookbook Club for Kids, Code Wiz: Minecraft Workshop, Halloween Jamboree, Candy Bar Bingo, and Cooks with Books! For more details and registration information, visit their website at: miltonlibrary.org, click on Events, Upcoming Events, and use the drop-down menu under All Programs to choose Children's Programs.

Apple Picking Locations*



C.N. Smith Farm in East Bridgewater, The Big Apple in Wrentham, Fairmount Fruit Farm in Franklin, Tangerini's Spring Street Farm in Millis, Dowse Orchards in Sherborn, Sunshine Farm in Sherborn, Lookout Farm in Natick, Brooksby Farm in Peabody, and Connemara House Farm in Topsfield. *Apple picking prices vary.

Make Your Own Playdough a Great Fine Motor Activity

You'll need:

- 2 cups white flour
- 1 cup salt
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- 2 cups water
- Few drops of food coloring

Various tools for playing with the dough: plastic fork/knife, spatula, rolling pin, cookie cutters, popsicle sticks, chopsticks, garlic press, plastic scissors, plastic animals, sea shells, pipe cleaners, beads, etc.

Instructions:

In a large unheated pot, add above ingredients, turn on stovetop to medium heat and stir contents for about 5 minutes until a dough-like ball forms. Dough should cool down before using. Let your child help by measuring out ingredients and pouring into the pot.

Have fun:

Have your child roll big balls in the palms of their hands, tiny balls with their finger tips, make snakes by rolling long tube-like shapes between their hands or on a table. Make shapes such as circles, triangles, and squares or even a rainbow. Build a 3-D structure such as a pumpkin, snowman, or house. Go on a scavenger hunt by hiding small plastic animals or seashell in the dough and have your child find them and dig them out. Roll out various sized snakes and try to form some letters of the alphabet or their name. Make many balls, line them up and count them.

Developmental Skills: This a great fine motor skill that will help develop the muscles and tendons in their hands, wrists, and fingers! This activity will also introduce early learning skills such as shapes, sizes, math, and literacy.



Leaf Rubbing Project

You'll need:

- Various leaves not yet dried out
- White paper
- Crayons without paper wrappers

Instructions:

Help your child lay a leaf under a white piece of paper. Have your child use the side of a crayon and rub it back and forth over the white paper in the area of the paper where the leaf is underneath. Watch the shape and structure of the leaf appear!

To make a pretty collage, suggest to your child that they use different shaped leaves and different colored crayons to create various leaf rubbings to fill the white paper with colorful leaves. Your child may need to press down hard to achieve the desired result.

Developmental Skill: This a great fine motor skill that will help develop the muscles and tendons in their hand, wrist, and fingers!



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

Just email cpcmecasld@verizon.net, let us know the age of your child, and we'll send you a comprehensive listing of all licensed childcare programs and providers in town, surrounding cities and towns, or via your driving route.



Are you looking for resources and/or information?

The Milton Early Childhood Alliance maintains a comprehensive Milton Parents Resource Manual on our website. Check it out at www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org.
(This site takes a minute or two to load.)

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>.

Many thanks to our Kindergarten Days Sponsors!!

Dental 1, Elliott Physical Therapy, The Friends of Milton Public Library, The Fruit Center Marketplace, Harte Dental, Historic New England Eustis Estate Museum, The Ice Creamsmith, Ichiro Sushi, Mackie's Barbershop, Milton Public Library, Mr. Chan's, The Toy Chest at the Nutshell, and Starbuck's.

Please help us thank them for their generosity!

Food Assistance

Milton Food Pantry:

call 617-696-0221

www.miltonfoodpantryma.org

WIC - Women, Infants & Children

call Quincy's office 617-376-8701

<https://wic.bamsi.org/>

Interfaith Social Services

call 617-773-6203 x19

www.interfaithsocialservices.org/food/

Project Bread:

call hotline 1-800-645-8333

www.projectbread.org

Fall Farm Fun*

Visit each website for more information.

[Brookwood Community Farm, Milton](#)

[Tougas Family Farm, Northborough](#)

[Ward's Berry Farm, Sharon](#)

[Davis Farmland, Sterling](#)

[Langwater Farm, North Easton](#)

[Russell Orchards, Ipswich](#)

[Honey Pot Hill Orchards, Stow](#)

[Pakeen Farm, Canton](#)

[Shelburne Farm, Stow](#)

[Sauchuk Farm, Plympton](#)

[Kimball Farm, Westford](#)

[Cider Hill Farm, Amesbury](#)

[West End Creamery, Whitinsville](#)

[Brooksby Farm, Peabody](#)

[Drumlin Farm, Lincoln](#)

[Simcock Farm, Swansea](#)

*May have entrance fee



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!!



Mabel's Labels

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

Mabel's Labels would be a terrific source for your clothing label needs! There are ALSO labels for water bottles, lunch boxes, personal items, etc.

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

Simply visit this website:

https://mabelslabels.com/en_US/fundraising/support/, type in Milton Early Childhood Alliance, and start shopping.

Shipping is free!!

10 Fun Corn Mazes* (adapted from The Boston Calendar)

- Ward's Berry Farm
Sharon, MA
- Corn Maze and Hayride at Hanson's Farm
Framingham, MA
- Marini Farm Corn Maze
Ipswich, MA
- Sauchuk's Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch
Plympton MA
- Davis Mega Maze
Sterling, MA
- Escobar Farm Corn Maze
Portsmouth, RI
- Mike's Maze
Sunderland, MA
- The Apple Place Corn Maze
East Longmeadow, MA
- Honey Pot Hill Orchards
Stow, MA
- Flint Farm Stand
Mansfield, MA

*May have entrance fee

Great Fall Books for Children



Leaf Man by Lois Elhert



Ox-Cart Man
by Donald Hall



Leaves by David
Ezra Stein



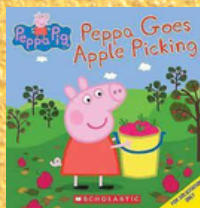
Apples A to Z by
Margaret McNamara



The Little Old Lady
Who Was Not Afraid
of Anything
by Linda Williams



The Biggest Pumpkin
Ever by Steven Kroll



Peppa Pig Goes Apple
Picking by Meredith Rusu



Let It Fall by Maryann
Cocca-Leffler

Help Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Milton improve the health of our community! Scan the QR code or visit <https://survey.jsi.com/s3/FY25-BILH> to take their survey!



Help Us Improve the Health of Our Community!

Take Our Community Health Survey

Beth Israel Lahey Health and its member hospitals are doing a Community Health Needs Assessment to learn about the issues affecting people in our communities. This anonymous 15-minute survey will help us understand what you think about quality of life and available resources so we can improve patient care and community services.



The survey is available in multiple languages

Take the Survey by November 1st:
Use your phone to scan the QR code or complete the survey online at <https://survey.jsi.com/s3/FY25-BILH>

Enter Our Drawing:
Complete the survey for a chance at winning a \$100 Visa gift card.

For more information, to have paper copies dropped off, or to have an email sent to your organization or place of work, contact Laureane_Marquez@bidmilton.org or call 617-313-1126.

www.bidmilton.org

Beth Israel Lahey Health
Beth Israel Deaconess
Milton

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH of Milton

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