

Fall Newsletter

2025

Milton Early Childhood Alliance

a program of



Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc.

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www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org

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.



Kidleidoscope: a Children's Nature Program

We are joining the Kidleidoscope children's program at Houghton's Pond!! Join us and Ranger Dan for a fun, interactive children's nature program. This program includes a nature-based story, a fun fine motor activity, and a nature walk with Ranger Dan! Each week features a different nature theme, story, and activity on that theme. Suitable for ages 2-5 with an adult. This program is held weekly; we will be joining the program on Fridays, October 3rd, October 17th, November 14, November 21, and December 12th! Kidleidoscope is FREE and starts at 10:00 AM in the Houghton's Pond Visitors Center, 860 Hillside Street in Milton. This awesome program is in collaboration with the MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation. Many thanks to the Milton Woman's Club for their generous support of this program!



Continued: Our Fall Programming...always free!

Stories and Friends Meet Up: Exploring Fall!

Join us for a woodsy STEM adventure, listen to stories, and make new friends! We'll have fun, interactive, hands-on activities such as acorn painting, making a bat, creating a pumpkin suncatcher, and dissecting a pumpkin!! Join Ranger Dan, who will take everyone on a scavenger hunt around the grounds looking for signs of fall! Some hands-on activities may be messy, so please dress accordingly. This program will be held on Saturday, November 15th at 10:30 AM and is for children 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!



Milton Public Library Happenings

Check out all the fun children's programming Milton Public Library is offering this fall! Stop by to enjoy their Story Walk, It's Fall by Renée Kurilla, 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 Specials, Nintendo Switch Freeplays, Freckle Face Yoga, Stoneburner Bookbinding: Spider Stories, Halloween Jamboree, Candy Bar Bingo, Reader's Theatre, Cooks with Books, and Fairytale School with Ever After Events! 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.



Corn Field Maze Locations*



Sauchuk Farms in Plympton, Hanson's Farm in Framingham, Marini Farm in Ipswich, Mike's Maze in Sunderland, Taft Farms in Great Barrington, Schartner Farms in Bolton, Davis Mega Maze in Sterling. *There may be fees associated with this activity.

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. *There may be fees associated with this activity.

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.

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
Forbes House Museum
The Friends of Milton Public Library
Fruit Center Marketplace
Harte Dental
Historic N.E. Eustis Estate Museum
The Ice Creamsmith
Ichiro Sushi
Mackie's Barbershop
Milton Public Library
Mr. Chan's
Rise and Thrive Refreshments Stand at
Houghton's Pond
The Toy Chest at the Nutshell
William James Gifts

*Please help us thank these sponsors
for their generosity!*

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!!

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 LEAF IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



Elm



Maple



Birch



Oak



Ginkgo



Gum Tree



Poplar

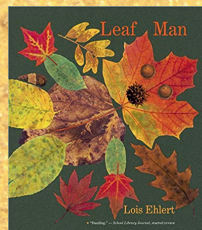


Japanese Maple



Aspen

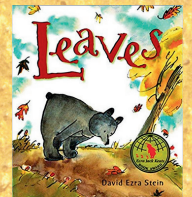
Great Fall Books for Children



Leaf Man by Lois Elhert



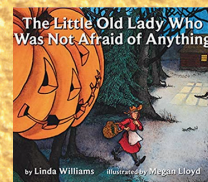
Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall



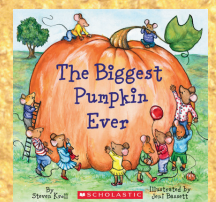
Leaves by David Ezra Stein



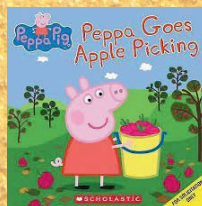
Apples A to Z by Margaret McNamara



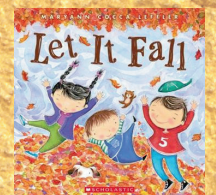
The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams



The Biggest Pumpkin Ever by Steven Kroll



Peppa Pig Goes Apple Picking by Meredith Rusu



Let It Fall by Maryann Cocca-Leffler