



# Milton Early Childhood Alliance



Fall, 2017

Serving families with children birth to 8 years old. We are here to help!

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Milton Early Childhood Alliance

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We gratefully acknowledge the First Congregational Church for their generous support of our office space.



## Upcoming Free Activities and Events

### HAPPENING NOW...

**How to Talk to Children About Race** Join us and children's author Michelle Chalmers of the book, *The Skin On My Chin*, for an interactive workshop that will support parents, caregivers, and teachers when engaging in meaningful conversations about race and racial differences with young children. This workshop is designed to support children in understanding human diversity. Thursday, September 21, 2017 from 7:30 to 9:00 PM at 3 Blue Hill River Road in Canton. Please register by emailing [cpcmecasl@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasl@verizon.net) or calling 617-696-2262. This event is co-sponsored by Learning Circle Preschool and Curry College Education Department.

**The Power of the Wind: Learning is a Breeze** Join us and the educators of Historic New England for a unique literacy event to learn more about the power of the wind. Explore the beautiful landscape while reading the StoryWalk®, *I Face the Wind*, by Vicki Cobb. Families can try fun wind-based experiments and activities, make their own pinwheels, bring a lunch to enjoy on the lawn, and explore the inside of the museum. For children 4 to 10 years old on Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 10:00-2:00 at the Eustis Estate, 1424 Canton Avenue in Milton. Visit anytime during the hours stated above. Registration is not required, but you will need to sign in upon arrival. This event is co-sponsored by Historic New England Eustis Estate Museum.

**Story Hour at Brookwood Community Farm** Watch Linda Glaser's book, *It's Fall!*, come alive as you walk through the pages of the book and learn how the people, land, and critters at Brookwood Farm depend on each other—even in the fall! For families with children 3 to 8 years old. Parents/caregivers are expected to stay and supervise their child at all times. Registration is required by emailing [cpcmecasl@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasl@verizon.net) or calling 617-696-2262. Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 10:00-11:00 AM at 11 Blue Hill River Road in Canton. For cancellation due to inclement weather, call the Blue Hills Event Line at 617-698-1802, ext. 3. This event is co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and Brookwood Community Farm.

**Learning in Nature** Join us for a super fun, 2-part nature workshop for children with their parents/guardians ages 3 to 5 years old. This series will include stories, songs, crafts, and nature exploration—all in the big, Blue Hills! Parents must stay with and supervise their children at all times. Registration is required by emailing [cpcmecasl@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasl@verizon.net) or calling 617-696-2262. Fridays, October 13 and 20, 2017 from 10:00-11:00 AM at Brookwood Farm Conference Center, 11 Blue Hill River Road in Canton. This event is co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

**STEM Free Play Fridays** continue at Milton Public Library! Come spend some fun, one-on-one time with your children, ages 3 to 5 years old, while enjoying many terrific Science, Technology, Engineering and Math activities! This program meets every other Friday morning from 10:00-12:00. There will be different activities each time you visit. The Milton Public Library is located at 476 Canton Avenue. Upcoming program dates are: September 29, October 13, 27, November 24, December 8 and 22. This program is co-sponsored by Milton Public Library.

**Story Walk® at Trailside Museum** Enjoy a children's story book, posted along the walking path, at the Trailside Museum for the fall! Bring a picnic, take a walk, see the animals, and read a terrific story along the way. The Trailside Museum is located at 1904 Canton Avenue. The Story Walk can be enjoyed daily from 9:00-5:00. This is a self-guided, outdoor, rain or shine activity, so please dress appropriately. This event is co-sponsored by the Blue Hills Trailside Museum.

**Story Walk® at Brookwood Community Farm** Enjoy Linda Glaser's *It's Fall!*, posted around the farm, for the fall! Bring a picnic, check out the flowers and plants, and read a terrific story along the way. Brookwood Farm is located at 11 Blue Hill River Road in Canton. The Story Walk can be enjoyed daily during daylight hours. This is a self-guided, outdoor, rain or shine activity, so please dress appropriately. This event is co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and Brookwood Community Farm.

### UPCOMING...

**Story Walk® at Tucker Elementary School** during the month of November. A multi-lingual story book will be posted in the back playground in early November through Thanksgiving for families and children to enjoy! This Story Walk is co-sponsored by Milton Public Schools.

**Skip and Hop Co-op Playgroup** will return this December for the cold, winter months. This playgroup is a free, parent cooperative, indoor play space where energetic toddlers and preschoolers can play and make new friends. Parents with their infants are welcome as well. This playgroup is co-sponsored by the First Congregational Church. Meeting dates and time will be determined soon.

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Do you think your family may qualify for a child care voucher through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts? If so, visit our website at [www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org](http://www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org) for qualification guidelines OR give us a call at 617-696-2262. Our office can refer you so your family can be added to the state's online waitlist for child care vouchers.



### What is the **Ages & Stages Questionnaire**

Program? Ages & Stages helps you monitor your child's growth and development. Participation in this program is free.

We will provide you with an age appropriate questionnaire for you to complete with your child. Then, return it to us for scoring. It only takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete. We will let you know if your child is on target for their age and provide you with fun activities to encourage your child's future development. Give us a call at 617-696-2262 or email [cpcmecasld@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasld@verizon.net).

## At Home With STEM—for parents and grandparents

Here are some Science, Technology, Engineering and Math activities to do at home!

**Science—Be an observer:** Take a walk around your neighborhood with your child and look at nature. Ask questions such as: Where are the leaves? Why are the pinecones and acorns on the ground? Why are the squirrels so busy? Compare rocks to see which ones have sparkles in them. Make some snowballs, bring them home and put them in a sink. Where did they go? What made them disappear?

**Technology—Make friends with a mouse:** Children need strong fine motor skills to operate a computer mouse, swipe a screen, and hold writing tools. Start with play dough and make balls and snakes. Have them try rolling the dough into pea-size balls with just their fingertips. Make a necklace by lacing pasta on a string. Create a picture using peel-and-stick labels and stickers. Once their fine motor skills are ready, visit <http://pbskids.org/sesame/games/elmos-world-games> for a fun computer mouse-clicking game.

**Engineering—Build a building:** Use boxes found around the house (cereal, oatmeal, crackers, diapers, etc.) to build a building, knock it down and build it again. Tape the open ends of the boxes closed to make them sturdier. You can even cover the boxes in wrapping paper, if desired. The more boxes you have, the bigger the building. Ask questions as you build such as: Is it taller or shorter than you? Do you think it will fall down? What can you do to prevent it from falling? What can you use to knock it down?

**Math—Be a cook:** Cooking with your child is a great way to incorporate basic math skills. Have them help you by using measuring cups to measure ingredients, help them count the number of items on the cookie sheet, let your child set the timer, or count the eggs, or tell you when the pot of water is full. Ask questions that will incorporate math language such as: When will this cup be full? How many green beans will we be cooking? Can you pass me 10 chocolate chips? Can you let me know when this pot is half full?

**Remember to ask your child open ended questions that begin with "what do you think?", which will allow them to explore ideas, think for themselves, and have fun!**

**Also, check out our fun STEM activities available to play with during Free Play Fridays at Milton Public Library!**

## Children's Programming at Milton Public Library

The Milton Public Library offers many programs for children birth through school age. Visit their website at [miltonlibrary.org](http://miltonlibrary.org) for a complete listing of programs!

## Many thanks to our supporters this summer!

Discovery Schoolhouse, Blue Hills Trailside Museum, Brookwood Community Farm, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, Milton Public Schools, Milton Public Library, Cunningham Park/Hall, The Fruit Center Marketplace, Bent's Café, Mackie's Barber Shop, Ichiro Sushi, Starbucks, The Nutshell, Citizen's Bank, Mr. Chan's, Friends of the Milton Public Library, and Historic New England Eustis Estate Museum. We truly appreciate your continued support!