



# Milton Early Childhood Alliance



Fall, 2018

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

Contact us by:

**Mail:**  
495 Canton Avenue  
Milton, MA 02186

**Phone:**  
617-696-2262

**Email:**  
Susan L. Dolan,  
Director  
cpcmecasl@verizon.net

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

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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...

**Fun On The Farm** Watch Tractor Mac come alive as you and your child experience this tractor's story as a Story Walk® on a working farm. We'll also take a guided tour of the farm, learn how the farm grows and harvests food, and participate in a fun activity. Parents/caregivers must remain with and look after their children ages three to ten years old. Meet us at Brookwood Community Farm, 11 Blue Hill River Rd. in Canton, on September 8<sup>th</sup> and/or October 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:00. Registration is required by emailing [cpcmecasl@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasl@verizon.net). This program is co-sponsored with Brookwood Community Farm and MA Department of Conservation and Recreation.

**STEM Free Play Fridays** Our STEM activities will continue to be included in Milton Public Library's Free Play Fridays' program. Fun, hands-on, materials supporting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math vary each session and are great learning experiences for children three to six years old. Join us at the Library, 476 Canton Ave., on September 14 and 28, October 12 and 26, November 9 and 23, and December 7 and 21 from 10:00-12:00. Parents/caregivers must remain with and look after their child. Registration is not required; however, you will need to sign-in upon arrival. This program is co-sponsored with Milton Public Library.

**Parent Education Workshop** Join us for a terrific presentation from author, Charlie Appelstein, as we discuss his book, No Such Thing As a Bad Kid, at our parent workshop on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. This workshop will support parents and caregivers as they learn how to help young children be all that they can be by using a positive, strength-based approach. The workshop will be held from 7:30 to 9:00 PM at Learning Circle Preschool, 3 Blue Hill River Road in Canton. Registration is strongly encouraged by emailing [cpcmecasl@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasl@verizon.net). This program is co-sponsored with Learning Circle Preschool.

**Baby and Me Infant Playgroup Series** Calling all new parents and grandparents! Having a new baby in the family is truly rewarding, but also quite stressful. So, join us for our Baby and Me Infant Playgroup series where we will learn next steps, better understand your child's development, read stories, sing songs, learn early literacy skills, and participate in discussions in a supportive environment. We will meet in the Parlor of the First Congregational Church, 495 Canton Avenue, on Tuesdays from 10:00-11:00 beginning October 2<sup>nd</sup> and continuing each week through November 20<sup>th</sup>. Resources and gifts will be distributed to each participating family at the end of the series. For families with their infants birth to six months old. Registration is required by emailing [cpcmecasl@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasl@verizon.net). This program is co-sponsored with Milton Public Library and the First Congregational Church.

**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. The story will change every 5-6 weeks through the beginning of December. This event is co-sponsored with the Blue Hills Trailside Museum.

**Story Walk® at Houghton's Pond** Enjoy Linda Glaser's It's Fall!, posted around the wooden fence at the playground! Add a unique literacy experience to your outdoor fun by reading a terrific story while you play. Houghton's Pond is located at 840 Hillside Street in Milton. The Story Walk can be enjoyed daily during daylight hours. This is a self-guided, outdoor, rain or shine activity. This event is co-sponsored with the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation.

### UPCOMING...

**Skip and Hop Co-op Playgroup** will return this December for the cold, winter months. This playgroup is a parent cooperative, indoor play space where energetic toddlers and preschoolers can play and make new friends. Parents with their infants are welcome as well. Dates to 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, give us a call at 617-696-2262. Our office can refer you so your family may be added to the state's online waitlist for a child care voucher.



Are you concerned about your child's development or just want to make sure they are developing typically for their age? Then, ask us about the Ages & Stages Questionnaire. 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) for more information.

## 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: What color 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> for some fun computer mouse-clicking games.

**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 <http://miltonlibrary.org/events/upcoming-events/> for more information.

## Many thanks to our sponsors this summer!

Discovery Schoolhouse, Milton Public Schools, Milton Public Library, Cunningham Park, Friends of the Milton Public Library, Blue Hills Trailside Museum, Mackie's Barber Shop, Mr. Chan's, Ichiro Sushi, Starbucks, The Fruit Center Marketplace, The Nutshell, Historic New England Eustis Estate Museum, and The Ice Creamsmith. We truly appreciate your continued support!

*\*Please share this flyer and our FREE programs with your friends and neighbors\**