



Milton Early Childhood Alliance

Serving Milton's Families with Children



Inside this issue:

Spring, 2017

Our Upcoming Events and Activities...FREE to all

Upcoming Events	1
Getting Ready for Kindergarten	2
Winter Sponsors	2
Child Care Needs	2
Ages & Stages Questionnaire	2
Brain Building in Progress	2

Serving families with children birth to 8 years old.

We are here to help!

Contact us via:

Mail:

495 Canton Avenue
Milton, MA 02186

Phone:

617-696-2262

email:

cpcmecasl@verizon.net

Website:

www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org

"Like" us on Facebook:

Milton Early Childhood Alliance

Story Walk at Trailside Museum — Our Story Walk, located at the Trailside Museum, has returned! A new story will be posted every five to six weeks from the beginning of April through the end of October. Stories can be enjoyed by children both young and old. Bring some friends, read a story, have a picnic, take a hike in the Blue Hills. Remember to dress for the weather as this is an outdoor experience. Registration is not required, however, please sign our Guest Register so we know you were there!

STEM Free Play Fridays at Milton Public Library — will continue every other Friday in their Children's Story Hour Room from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Come enjoy some terrific parent and child activities while learning about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Activities are appropriate for children ages three to six years old WITH their parent, guardian or caregiver. There will be different activities each visit with information on the activities available to take and re-create at home. Registration is not required, however, you will be required to sign-in upon arrival. STEM Free Play Fridays will continue every other week through the summer and fall. See what's coming up: April 7th: Our Senses; April 21st: What Can You Build?; May 5th: Can You Measure It?; May 19th: Does it Stick?; June 2nd: How Does It Go?; June 16th: Fine Motor Skills; and June 30th: How Much Does It Weigh?.

Learning Through Play Toddler and Preschool Play Group — Our Learning Through Play Toddler and Preschool Play Group returns! A facilitator led, language and literacy play group for moms, dads, and grandparents **with their children** will be held on Thursday mornings from 9:30-10:30 AM, April 27 to June 1, 2017, at Discovery Schoolhouse, 101 Blue Hills Parkway in Milton. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Milton residents will be prioritized. For more information, [click here](#) or visit our website.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten Parent Cafés — Will your child be attending kindergarten in the fall? Do you wonder if your child is ready academically, socially, or emotionally? Would you like to learn what you can do to make the transition easier for your child and your family? Then, a free Parent Café is for you! Choose from one of the two sessions available, register and attend. This workshop is open to all Milton families; your child will not need to attend Milton Public Schools. Session 1 will meet Tuesday, May 2nd from 9:00-10:00 AM in the Collicot/Cunningham Schools Cafeteria. Session 2 will meet Wednesday, May 3rd from 5:00-6:00 PM at Tucker School. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. For more information, [click here](#) or visit our website.

Baby and Me Infant Play Group — Our Baby and Me Infant Play Group returns! Mothers, fathers, grandparents or caregivers **with their infants** up to 6 months old will enjoy a wonderful opportunity to make new friends, ask questions, share experiences, receive some support, and learn about local resources. This playgroup will be held on Tuesday mornings from 10:00-11:00 AM, May 9 to June 13, 2017 at First Congregational Church, 495 Canton Avenue in Milton. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Milton residents will be prioritized. For more information, [click here](#) or visit our website.

Children's Concert — On June 8th, our annual Children's Concert will be held at Baron Hugo Gazebo at Milton's Town Hall from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Join us for toe-tappin', banjo rockin', guitar groovin' music, singing, and fun for all ages! Wear your bright yellow t-shirt and meet other children entering kindergarten in the fall. Bring a blanket, picnic, and your friends for an evening of fun! Registration is not required. If it looks like rain, call 617-696-2262 after 4:00 PM. We'll leave a message if we've postponed the Concert until June 15th.

The Milton Early Childhood Alliance is funded by the Coordinated Families and Community Engagement grant through the MA Department of Early Education and Care and is administered by Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc.

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



More on Page 2

Do you have a child who will be entering kindergarten in the fall? Now's the time to start thinking and preparing for that big step. Keep in mind that kindergarten teachers are ready for your child. But, there are still some things you can work on to help make your child's transition into kindergarten a bit smoother. If you practice during the summer months with your child, it may be easier in the fall for your child to acclimate to his or her new surroundings. Give some of these tips a try:

- Make sure your child knows their first and last name (and maybe even their address and phone number).
- Have them practice how to put on their coat, jacket, boots, and hat.
- Practice zipping, buttoning, and snapping.
- Have them use their fine motor skills a bit more during the summer months: play with Play-Doh®, draw with pencils, lace some cards, string a pile of beads, build sand castles at the beach, build a tall building with Legos®, etc.
- Play games that will help them learn to take turns.
- Read to your child often so they can practice their sitting and listening skills. As school nears, read books about kindergarten (some popular titles are: *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten*, *Froggy Goes to School*, *Countdown to Kindergarten*, *Look Out Kindergarten Here I Come*, *Welcome to Kindergarten*). The Milton Public Library will have books on display available for you to check out as kindergarten nears.
- Let your child help with the laundry. There are many skills to be practiced and learned, like colors, sorting, counting, identifying, and stacking.
- Find opportunities to connect with other children also going to kindergarten in the fall. You can attend our Children's Concert on June 8th at 6:00 PM, Baron Hugo Gazebo, Milton Town Hall, make play dates with families you know in the neighborhood who have children taking this same big step in September, and watch for word from the school your child will be attending in the fall as they usually will hold a special event prior to the start of school.
- Make sure to pick up our bright yellow, "I'm Going to Kindergarten", t-shirt at your child's Milton Public School screening in May.
- Start in August having your child go to bed earlier and wake up when they will need to be up for school.
- Let them help you label their personal items they'll be bringing to school (backpack, lunchbox, jacket, etc.).
- Visit the playground at the school they will attend to help them feel more comfortable with the building and grounds.
- Enjoy our Kindergarten Days event during the first week in September by visiting specific establishments in town and receiving free items or discounts to celebrate your child's big step. (Further information will be available soon.)
- Watch our video "So, You're Going to Kindergarten!" at <http://vimeo.com/47896597> created in collaboration with Milton Public Schools and Milton Access TV. It will help answer many questions for you and your child.
- Visit the Countdown to Kindergarten exhibit at the Boston Children's Museum. For more information, visit www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org.
- Check out these fun Brain Building in Progress kindergarten readiness activities to do with your child. They can be found on our website at www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org; click on "Countdown to Kindergarten".
- Relax...because if you are relaxed and calm, your child will be as well!

Many thanks to our supporters this winter!!

Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc., First Congregational Church, Milton Public Library, Adams Street Early Learning Center, Carriage House Schools, Curry Early Childhood Center, Milton Area Family Child Care Assoc., Sunshine School, The Campbell School, The Centre School, The Children's Center at Milton Academy, Village School, Collicot PTO, Cunningham PTO, Glover PTO, Tucker PTO, The Friends of Milton Public Library, The Toy Chest at The Nutshell, and Milton Academy.



Looking for child care or a preschool for your child? We can help! Give us a call at 617-696-2262 or send us an email at cpcmecasld@verizon.net and we can explore options with you that best fit the needs of your family. Or, visit our website for a complete listing of child care and preschool programs in Milton along with contact information for the Milton Area Family Child Care Association.



With the **Ages & Stages Questionnaire**, you will learn about your child's growth and development, know what to look for and expect, and determine if your child is on target for their age. We will provide you with a free, age appropriate, questionnaire for you to complete. Then, return it to us for scoring. We will let you know if your child is on target for their age and will provide you with ideas and fun activities to encourage your child's future development. If interested, give us a call at 617-696-2262 or email cpcmecasld@verizon.net.



All of our family activities and events support **Brain Building in Progress**. By participating in our programming, you are building the brains of our future. That's why you see this sign on all of our materials!

How do you hear about our events and activities? "Like" us on Facebook at Milton Early Childhood Alliance OR join our mailing list by emailing cpcmecasld@verizon.net.



Milton Early Childhood Alliance