



Milton Early Childhood Alliance Newsletter



Winter, 2015

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

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"Like" us on Facebook:
Milton Early Childhood
Alliance

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



Skip and Hop Co-op Winter Play Group

Looking for a place to play during the cold winter months? This free, parent cooperative, indoor play group is for you! Parents and caregivers **with their children** can play, learn and make new friends. Children, infants to five years old, are welcome. Play Group will meet every Thursday morning beginning January 15, 2015 from 10:30-12:00 through April at the First Congregational Church, 495 Canton Avenue in Milton. Registration is not required. For more information, [click here](#) or visit our website.

Learning Through Play Preschool Play Group

Our Learning Through Play free Preschool Play Group returns! A facilitator led, language and literacy play group for parents and caregivers **with their children** will be held on Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:00 AM, January 29 to March 5, 2015, 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.

Milton Public School Kindergarten Registration

If you missed Milton Public Schools' Kindergarten Information Night and would like more information or want to register your child for kindergarten this fall, please call 617-696-4811.

Kindergarten: Your Child's Next Big Step

Will your child be ready for kindergarten this fall? This free parent information session will discuss if your child is academically, socially, and emotionally ready for kindergarten, what behavioral changes you can expect, and what you can do to make the transition easier for both you and your child. This session will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at Discovery Schoolhouse, 101 Blue Hills Parkway in Milton from 7:00-8:30 PM. Free childcare will be provided. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED! To register, email cpcmecasld@verizon.net.

A Peek Into Your Child's Mind: setting your child up to succeed

Please join us for this terrific 3-part parent education series on your child's growth and development. For parents and caregivers of children birth to five years old. Participants will have time to learn, share problems or ideas and receive information, feedback and guidance. This series will be held on Tuesdays, March 24, April 7 and 14, 2015 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Location to be determined. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED! Milton residents will be prioritized. Free childcare will be provided. For more information, please call 617-696-2262.

STEM Free Play Fridays

Many science, technology, engineering and math activities for young children, ages 3 to 5 years old, have been added to Milton Public Library's Free Play Fridays. Visit the Children's Room every other Friday morning from 10:00-12:00. Activities vary each week. Dates are: January 16 and 30, February 13 and 27, March 13 and 27, April 10 and 24, May 8 and 22 and June 5 and 19.

Baby and Me Play Group

Our free Baby and Me Play Group will return in the spring. Mothers, fathers, or caregivers **with their infants** up to 6 months old will meet for one hour, once per week for six weeks. Ask questions, share experiences, make new friends, receive support and learn about local resources. Dates to be determined soon. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED! To learn more, "Like" us on Facebook or join our mailing list.

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



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 cpcmecasl@verizon.net if interested.

A Child's Typical Road to Literacy...

At 6 months—

A child imitates speech such as na na, ga ga, etc. and enjoys looking at books with simple pictures. **How You Can Help**—Talk, talk, talk, and keep talking! Sing songs. Tell stories. Read books with colorful pictures. It's never too early to start reading to your child.

At 1 year—

A child understands several simple phrases, and speaks one or more words. They love "lift the flap" and "touch" books. **How You Can Help**—Have conversations with them, read interactive books, tell your own stories, and keep talking.

At 2 years—

A child knows about 250 to 350 words, holds books and looks at pictures. **How You Can Help**—Recite nursery rhymes. Visit the library and have your child choose some books that you can read together. Set aside time every day to read to your child. Your child will want you to read the same books over and over again.

At 3 years—

A child knows about 800 to 1,000 words and repeats familiar rhymes. **How You Can Help**—Play rhyming games. Encourage them to tell you a story. Have your child "read" their favorite books to you. Make sure your child has a comfortable place to read. Read their favorite books over again.

At 4 years—

A child uses long sentences, begins to play with words and makes up rhymes. **How You Can Help**—Work on increasing their vocabulary. While reading a story, choose some new words being read and explain what they mean. Try to use the new words around the house in other situations to reinforce the words and their meanings.

At 5 years—

A child knows about 3,000 to 5,000 words, begins to match letters with their sounds, talks in compound sentences and begins to write letters of the alphabet. **How You Can Help**—Work on letter recognition and letter sounds. Choose a letter and see how many words you and your child can say that begin (or end) with that letter. Keep reading to them and with them.

At 6 years—

A child begins to read words and begins to make predictions while reading a story based on pictures and text and can read some things aloud with ease. **How You Can Help**—Read both fiction and nonfiction books. Ask your child what they think might happen next. After reading a book, have your child tell you what happened at the beginning, the middle, and the end of the story.

At 7 years—

A child begins to read words automatically and expands their knowledge by listening to and reading books. **How You Can Help**—Encourage reading (and rereading!) Limit their TV time and read with them. Read chapter books to them, or take turns reading.

At 8 years—

A child reads chapter books and is learning an estimated 3,000 words a year. **How You Can Help**—Keep reading with them. Read books that are above their reading level. This will increase their language growth and vocabulary. Share the reading by taking turns.

Please note: every child develops at their own rate. This information is provided as a guideline only.

To learn more about your child's growth and development to include early literacy, attend our upcoming 3-part parent education series "A Peek Into Your Child's Mind: Setting Your Child Up to Succeed". See other side for more information.