



Milton Early Childhood Alliance Newsletter



Winter, 2016

HAPPENING NOW...

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

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. Parents/caregivers, with their infants or children up to five years old, are welcome. Play Group meets weekly on Thursday mornings from 10:30-12:00 through April at the First Congregational Church, 495 Canton Avenue in Milton. Registration is not required. Upcoming dates are: January 7, 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 25, March 3, 10, 17, 31, April 7 and 14. For more information, [click here](#) and scroll to the Skip and Hop Play Group post or visit our website.

STEM Free Play Fridays

Many science, technology, engineering and math activities for parents with their 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. Upcoming dates are: January 8 and 22, February 5 and 19, March 4 and 18. Programming will continue through the year—additional dates will be determined soon. For more information, [click here](#) and scroll to the STEM Free Play Fridays post or visit our website.

Milton Public School Kindergarten Pre-Registration and Registration

It's time to get ready for Kindergarten at Milton Public Schools. Here are some important dates to be aware of if your child will be five years old on or before August 31, 2016: You should pre-register by January 15; Attend Kindergarten Information Night on January 21 at 7:00 PM in the auditorium of Milton High School; and registration will be held on February 23, 24, and 25 by appointment only. If you have questions or would like more information, please email Laurie Dunn at ldunn@miltonps.org or call 617-696-4811.

Learning Through Play Toddler and Preschool Play Group

Our free 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 9:00-10:00 AM, February 4 to March 10, 2016, 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.

UPCOMING...

Story Walk

Will return to the Trailside Museum in early April to celebrate Week of the Young Child and remain there until late fall. A different children's book will be posted each month. This is a free event so, bring your walking shoes, a snack, and enjoy a unique early literacy adventure! No registration required.

Baby and Me Play Group

Our free Baby and Me Infant Play Group will return in the spring. 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. Dates to be determined soon. Milton residents will be prioritized. Registration will be required and begin in March. To learn more, "Like" us on Facebook or join our mailing list.

Kindergarten: Your Child's Next Big Step Parent Cafés

Join us for a round-table discussion on preparing your child for kindergarten. Choose **one of three** free parent information sessions being offered. We will answer your questions, discuss what you can do to make the transition easier for both you and your child, talk about behavioral changes you can expect, and distribute handouts to guide you through this next big step in your family's life. More information to follow. Registration will be required and begin in April. To learn more, "Like" us on Facebook or join our mailing list.

The Milton Early Childhood Alliance is funded by the Coordinated Families and Community Engagement grant through the Mass. 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.



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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?

With Ages & Stages, you will learn about your child's growth and development and know what to look for and expect with their next developmental milestone.

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.

Summer Camps, Enrichment, Preschool...it's not too early to start planning

Preschool Open Houses and Summer Camps – this is the season for preschools to hold open houses for fall enrollment. If you are considering entering your child into preschool this fall, visit our website at www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org, click on the link for MECA Parent Resource Guide, then Early Education and Care Programs. There you will find a list of all early childhood programs in Milton. Visit their website or give them a call to see when they will be holding their open house for the fall term.

Summer Camp for Toddlers and Preschoolers—Some local preschool programs offer summer camp programming. Follow the instructions above to find out which preschools offer summer programming.

Cunningham Park Playground Program—For children ages 7 to 13. This summer camp program is run by the Milton Parks and Recreation Department for Milton residents. Watch for more information by visiting their website regularly at www.townofmilton.org. Click on Departments and then Parks and Recreation.

Camp Cunningham—This is a summer camp program run by Milton Community Schools for children entering grades 1 through 8 in the fall. Registration begins in March and fills up quickly. Watch for more information by visiting their website regularly at www.miltoncommunityschools.org.

Milton Summer Enrichment Program—For children in grades Pre-K through 8. This summer enrichment program is run by Milton Public Schools. Enrollment begins in late April/early May. Watch for more information by visiting their website regularly at www.miltonps.org. Click on Departments, then on Summer Enrichment in the drop down menu.

Summer Camps for Children of All Ages—Check out the extensive Summer Camp listing at Boston Parents Paper. They have a very convenient search engine allowing you to search by miles from home, camp activities, age, gender, etc. Their website is www.bostonparentspaper.com and click on the link for Kids' Camps.

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, 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.