

# Spring Newsletter

2022



*Milton Early*

*Childhood Alliance*

Serving families with children birth to age 10  
a program of

**Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc.**

and funded by the MA Dept. of Early  
Education and Care's CFCE Grant



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We're on Facebook & Instagram at:  
Milton Early Childhood Alliance

## Our Spring Programming...always free!

### StoryWalks® Around Town

Trailside Museum - Listen for the peepers, stroll around the outdoor grounds, visit with some animals, and read a terrific children's story along the way! We've posted a children's story on the outdoor fencing of the Trailside Museum's grounds for your family to enjoy. The outdoor grounds and exhibits at the Blue Hills Trailside Museum, located at 1904 Canton Avenue, are open daily 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Milton Cemetery - Look for blossoms on the ground or falling from the trees, visit the duck pond on the grounds of beautiful Milton Cemetery and Arboretum, and enjoy a children's story in a peaceful setting! We've posted a StoryWalk® at the duck pond in Milton Cemetery and Arboretum, located at 211 Centre Street, open seven days a week, 8:00 AM until sunset. THIS IS A TRILINGUAL STORY WALK IN FRENCH, SPANISH and ENGLISH!

*Many thanks to our translators, Marianne LeBigot and Yalennys Velazquez.*



### Stories and Friends Meet Up - Signs of Spring

Join us for a spring adventure while we look for signs of spring, listen to some stories, sing songs, and make new friends! A free At-Home Learning Extension planting kit will be given to the first 35 children who sign in. Program will be held on Thursday, May 5th (rain date May 12th) at 4:00 PM and is for children 2 1/2 to 6 years old. We'll meet at the duck pond at Milton Cemetery and Arboretum located at 211 Centre Street. Program will be co-facilitated by an experienced Teacher Naturalist with over 30 years of early childhood experience. Registration is not required, however we will ask you to sign in on arrival

*Many thanks to our Kindergarten T-shirt sponsors for their generous support of this programming!*



### Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Will your child be attending kindergarten in the fall? Do you wonder if your child is ready academically, socially, emotionally, or developmentally? Would you like to learn what you can do to make the transition easier for your child and your family? Then, this parent workshop is for you and is open to all parents/caregivers; your child will not need to attend Milton Public Schools to participate. We will be sharing many tips and helpful hints to make your child's transition to kindergarten a smooth one. This workshop will be held virtually, via Zoom, from the comfort of your home on May 11th at 7:00 PM. Registration is required. To register and obtain the Zoom link and passcode, visit: <https://forms.gle/PaBUutthJiM9Y1Z27>.

## Literacy Fun Through STEAM with the Easton Children's Museum

Calling all future Scientists, Technologists, Engineers, Artists, and Mathematicians! Have loads of fun while enjoying a story and working together as a family on fun experiments. Activities will be age appropriate for children 3 to 7 years old *with a parent or guardian*. These programs will be co-facilitated by an Easton Children's Museum Educator. All supplies and materials will be provided. We will be holding two sessions in person at Discovery Schoolhouse, 101 Blue Hills Parkway. Feel free to attend one or both! *Registration is required* and can be completed with the session links below. For families with multiple children planning to attend, please register each child separately.

Session 1: Mouse Paint! Let's explore primary and secondary colors through chromatography and other fun activities using materials provided. May 14th at 11:00 AM; Registration will be required and can be completed here: <https://forms.gle/JjrvkvbfDc6u6fzt9>.

Session 2: What Do You Do With a Tail Like This! We'll be practicing our measuring skills with basic sizes and shapes using universal materials in fun and creative ways. June 11th at 11:00 AM; Registration will be required and can be completed here: <https://forms.gle/au275DnQyuAFMMZq5>.

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## Children's Concert

On June 9th, our annual Children's Concert will be held at Baron Hugo Gazebo at Milton's Town Hall from 6:00 to 7:00 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 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 23rd. Co-sponsored with the Town of Milton's Parks and Recreation Dept.

## Milton Public Library Children's Programming

Check out all of the fun children's programming the Library is offering this Spring! Stop by to enjoy their new Story Walk, located on the outdoor patios, as well as the Sensory Path and iSpy challenge found in the Children's Room. You can also join the Library staff for storytimes with Night Owls Storytime for ages 3 to 8 on Mondays at 6:30 PM, Ms. Tory's Stories for ages 0 to 5 on Tuesdays at 10:00 or 10:45 AM, and Small Wonders for ages 0 to 5 on Wednesdays at 10:00 or 10:45 AM. Additional programs being offered for various ages are: SPUB Club, Mad Science, Take and Make Crafts, Tales from the Story Hat, Reading Dogs, LEGO Club, Art with Ginny, Baby Rhyme Time, and much more! For more details and registration information, visit their website at: [miltonlibrary.org](http://miltonlibrary.org), click on Events, and use the drop-down menu under All Programs to choose Children's Programs.

## 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



Read 1,000 books with your child! 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is a national movement that encourages parents to bond with their children through reading, and helps young readers develop a lifelong love of books and learning. Any book read to your newborn, infant, or toddler counts towards this reading challenge—including re-reads of a favorite bedtime story and books read at storytime, childcare, or preschool programs. Sign up today at Milton Public Library and you will receive an activity log to house all of your prize stickers for every 100 books read, plus a free book! Register and log your reading on [miltonlibrary.beanstack.org](http://miltonlibrary.beanstack.org).

# Information and Resources for You...

## Children Grow and Change Every Day

Through the Help Me Grow program, the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) is a free, simple tool you can use to find out what your child's strengths are, and the areas where they may need more practice. The program is designed specifically for the age of your child anywhere between birth and 5 ½ years old, and can be done multiple times during your child's first five years of life. Simply complete a Questionnaire in the comfort of your home, then submit it to us for scoring. We'll let you know the results, help you with next steps, if needed, and provide you with fun, simple activities to help with your child's continual growth and development - all for FREE! Our ASQ online link is: <https://www.asqonline.com/family/8fd7d7>.



## Food Assistance

Milton Public Schools:  
call 617-898-1051  
email [jmorgan@miltonps.org](mailto:jmorgan@miltonps.org)  
Milton Food Pantry:  
call 617-696-0221  
[www.miltonfoodpantryma.org](http://www.miltonfoodpantryma.org)  
Project Bread:  
call hotline 1-800-645-8333  
[www.projectbread.org](http://www.projectbread.org)  
WIC - Women, Infants & Children  
call Quincy's office 617-376-8701  
[www.wic.bamsi.org/](http://www.wic.bamsi.org/)  
Interfaith Social Services  
call 617-773-6203 x19  
[www.interfaithsocialservices.org/food/](http://www.interfaithsocialservices.org/food/)

## Parents Helping Parents

Empowering parents to nurture children and build stronger families. Trained volunteer counselors offer ways to relieve stress in a sympathetic, non-judgmental way. Support is available 24/7 at 1-800-632-8188 or [www.parentshelpingparents.org](http://www.parentshelpingparents.org).

## Caring for Yourself

The parent-child relationship is the child's first relationship. A warm, nurturing relationship is important for a child's social-emotional development and sets the stage for future relationships. Parenting a child can be an amazing and joyful experience, and it can also be tiring and difficult. It is natural for parents to put their child's needs ahead of their own. At some point, though, it is important to take care of yourself. Parents can best support their child's social-emotional development when their own needs are met, but that's easier said than done.

- Ask for help when you need it or let others help you when they ask
- Join a parent support group
- Connect with other parents of young children
- Take care of your body and mind
- Limit extra activities in your life
- Make lists of things to do that make you feel good.

Happy, relaxed parents have more to give to their children!

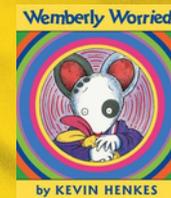
Adapted from:

ASQ®:SE-2 Learning Activities & More, Twombly, Munson, & Pribble.  
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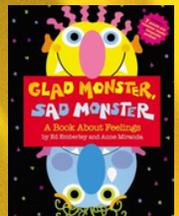
## Little Children Have Big Feelings, Too Book Suggestions...



**The Grouchy Ladybug**  
by Eric Carle



**Wemberly Worried**  
By Kevin Henkes



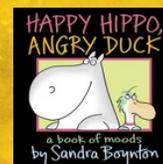
**Glad Monster, Sad Monster**  
By Ed Emberley



**My Many Colored Days**  
By Dr. Seuss



**Lots of Feelings**  
By Shelley Rotner



**Happy Hippo, Angry Duck**  
By Sandra Boynton



**The Pigeon Has Feelings, Too!**  
By Mo Willems



# Information and Resources for You...

## Are you looking for childcare? If so, we can help!

Just email [cpcmecasld@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasld@verizon.net), let us know the age of your child, and we'll provide you with comprehensive information on all licensed childcare programs and family childcare providers in town, surrounding cities and towns, or via your driving route.

## Resources

The Milton Early Childhood Alliance maintains a comprehensive Milton Parents Resource Manual, filled with a myriad of information for parents and families. Check out our website at [www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org](http://www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org).

## Do you have a child going to camp...childcare...after school activities?

Mabel's Labels would be a terrific source for your clothing label needs! There are also labels for water bottles, lunch boxes, backpacks, personal items, etc.

And, when you make a purchase, you'll be supporting the *Milton Early Childhood Alliance*!!

Simply visit this website: [www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com](http://www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com), type in Milton Early Childhood Alliance, and start shopping.

Shipping is free!!

*Also could be used by those in senior housing, assisted living and/or nursing homes, or childcare programs!*

## FREE car seats!

MA state law requires all children under 8 years old and less than 57 inches tall to be properly fastened in a federally approved car seat or booster seat. If your family is on MassHealth through Boston Medical Center's HealthNet Plan, you may be eligible for a free car seat.

To see if you are eligible, contact BMC HealthNet Plan Member services at 888-566-0010 for more information or to request your free car seat.

## Best Brain-Boosting Playgrounds in and Around Boston

Spring is in the air and a great time to help your children work on their fine and gross motor development!

### Mayor Thomas M. Menino Park

300 First Ave., Charlestown

### Uncle Frank & Auntie Kay Chin Park

John F. Fitzgerald Surface Rd., Chinatown, Boston

### Jackson Square Park

1516 Columbus Ave., Jamaica Plain

### Martin's Park

Children's Wharf, Boston Seaport District

### Paris Street Park

115 Paris St., East Boston

### Esplanade Playground

Esplanade on the Charles River, Boston

### Fallon Field

81 Roberts St., Roslindale

### Hunt Almont Playground

Almont and Orlando Street, Mattapan

### Sweeney Playground

177 West 5th St., South Boston

### Little Scobie Park

42 Copeland St., Roxbury

### Alexander W. Kemp Playground

36 Waterhouse St. Cambridge

### Chuckie Harris Park

3-17 Cross St., Somerville

### Hoyt-Sullivan Playground

115 Central St., Somerville

*Adapted from [mommypoppins.com](http://mommypoppins.com)*

We are very grateful to the First Congregational Church for their generous support of our office space.

