Spring Newsletter 2023

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

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 about a river otter along the way! We'll be posting a children's story on the outdoor fencing of the Trailside Museum's grounds in early April for your family to enjoy. The outdoor grounds and exhibits at the Blue Hills Trailside Museum, located at 1904 Canton Avenue in Milton, are open daily 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Houghton's Pond - Look for blossoms on the ground or falling from the trees, visit the pond and playground, and enjoy a children's story in a wonderful setting! We've posted a StoryWalk® inside the fencing of the children's playground at Houghton's Pond, located at 860 Hillside Street in Milton, open seven days a week, 8:00 AM until sunset.

StoryWalks® are a very unique and fun early literacy experience which we are sure you and your family will enjoy!

Stories and Friends Meet Up - Signs of Spring
Join us for a spring adventure which will include enjoying fun spring activities, listening to stories, and making new friends! Create a bird's nest, measure yourself against the wingspan of various birds, make beautiful butterfly wings and more! This program will be held on Saturday, May 20th at 10:30 AM and is for children 2 1/2 to 6 years old with their parent/guardian. We'll meet at Discovery Schoolhouse, 101 Blue Hills Parkway in Milton. 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 program!

Getting Ready for Kindergarten Parent Workshop
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 help 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 Tuesday, May 9th at 7:00 PM. Registration is required. To register and obtain the Zoom link and passcode, visit: https://forms.gle/XrKD81BEYnZ4GrPPA.

Many thanks to the Milton Junior Woman's Club for their generous support of this program!
Stories and Friends Meet Up - Summer's Coming!
Join us for a spring adventure while we look for signs of summer, listen to stories, create fun activities, and make new friends! A free At-Home Learning Extension planting activity will be given to the first 35 children who sign in. Program will be held on Saturday, June 10th at 10:30 AM and is for children 2 1/2 to 6 years old with their parent/guardian. We'll meet at the Houghton's Pond Visitor Center, 860 Hillside Street, Milton. Meet DCR Ranger Dan, who will be joining us! 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 program!

Children’s Concert
On Wed. June 7th, our annual Children’s Concert will be held at Baron Hugo Gazebo at Milton’s Town Hall at 6:00 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 8th.

Co-sponsored with the Town of Milton’s Parks and Recreation Dept.

MANY thanks to our 2023 Kindergarten T-shirt Sponsors!!

We thank you all for your generous support!!

Milton Public Library Children’s Programming
Peep! Peep! The Children's Room is getting chicken eggs! Starting on April 19, the Story Hour Room will be the new home to baby chicks as they wait to hatch in their incubator. Drop by anytime they are open to observe the hatching process, and be the first to say hello to their little chick friends when they finally break through their shells.

Also check out their children’s programming this Spring! Stop by to enjoy their Story Walk, located on the outdoor patios, and monthly rotating activities found at the Children’s Room center activity table. Join the Library staff for 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, Small Wonders for ages 0 to 5 on Wednesdays at 10:00 or 10:45 AM, and Saturday Stories for ages 0-5 on Saturdays at 10:00 AM. For more great programs and registration information, visit their website at: miltonlibrary.org, click on Events, and use the drop-down menu under All Programs to choose Children’s Programs.

The Milton Coalition
The Milton Coalition focuses on preventing and reducing youth substance use and promoting mental health. They bring together a variety of community stakeholders who work collaboratively on reducing, preventing, and addressing substance abuse and related mental health challenges in our Town, primarily amongst youth. Visit their website here to view their many resources and upcoming events.
**Family Friendly Hikes**

**The Blue Hills, 1904 Canton Ave., Milton**
Use one of the two parking lots by the Trailside Museum, look for their map signage, and follow the red trail to the lookout tower.

**Noon Hill, 164 Noonhill Road, Medfield**
Use the roadside parking at the trailhead along this dirt road. Making it to the summit will provide you with a view of Patriot's Place and Gillette Stadium, especially if you go before the leaves are out.

**King Philips’s Cave, 91 Mansfield Street, Sharon**
Their very small parking lot looks like a dirt driveway, but is a trailhead. The lot is on the odd side of the street.

**Needham Town Forest, end of Robinwood Ave., Needham**
Click this link to download a map, park at the trailhead (marker 12), take the far right trail (Horsford Road), then the first trail to the right at marker 11. Take your time to enjoy this magical (train) trail.

**Purgatory Chasm, 198 Purgatory Road, Sutton**
This feels like a mini canyon. Best for ages 5 and up. Across the street are a playground and picnic tables. May or may not charge for parking.

*Adapted from: communitykangaroo.com*

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**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.

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**Food Assistance**

**Milton Public Schools:**
call 617-898-1051
e-mail jmorgan@miltonps.org

**Milton Food Pantry:**
call 617-696-0221
www.miltonfoodpantryma.org

**Project Bread:**
call hotline 1-800-645-8333
www.projectbread.org

**WIC - Women, Infants & Children**
call Quincy’s office 617-376-8701
https://wic.bamsi.org/city-of-quincy/

**Interfaith Social Services**
call 617-773-6203 x19
https://interfaithsocialservices.org/

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**Little Children Have Big Feelings, Too**

**Book Suggestions...**

- **The Grouchy Ladybug**
  *by Eric Carle*

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

- **Lots of Feelings**
  *By Shelley Rotner*

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

- **Wemberly Worried**
  *By Kevin Henkes*

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

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

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**Do you have a child 3 mos. to 5 years old?**
Check to see if they are on target for their age!

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 3 months 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 and submit it to us for scoring. We’ll let you know the results, help you with next steps, and provide you with fun, simple activities to help with your child’s continual growth and development. Our ASQ online link is: [https://www.asqonline.com/family/8fd7d7](https://www.asqonline.com/family/8fd7d7).
Are you looking for childcare? If so, we can help!
Just email cpcmecaslld@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.

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 Mabel's Labels, type in Milton Early Childhood Alliance, and start shopping. Shipping is free!!
Also could be used by those in senior housing, assisted living or nursing homes!

Local Resources

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 at a playground!
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

Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project
The Early Intervention Parent Leadership project was created to support parents whose children receive early intervention services. To learn more, visit their website here or request to be added to their newsletter distribution list here.

The Basics
Check out The Basics, a non-profit organization that provides strategies for supporting vibrant learning and bolstering children's brain development. Strategies/tips are available for children birth to 60 months old.