

# Spring Newsletter

2024



*Milton Early*

*Childhood Alliance*

Serving families with children birth to age 7  
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

**Houghton's Pond** - We'll be posting a children's story shortly inside the fencing of the children's playground. You and your child can enjoy a story, play in the playground, and take a walk down to or around the pond! Houghton's Pond is located at 860 Hillside Street in Milton and is open seven days a week, 8:00 AM until sunset.

**Trailside Museum** - We'll be posting a children's story shortly on the fence posts along the walking path. You and your child can listen for the peepers, stroll around the grounds, visit with the outdoor animals, and read a terrific children's story along the way! 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.

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! We'll be learning about flowers, doing some weaving, kite making, butterfly painting, flower making, and will go on a spring scavenger hunt with Ranger Dan! This program will be held on Saturday, April 20th at 10:30 AM and is for children 2 1/2 to 6 years old with their parent/guardian. We'll meet in the Visitors Center at Houghton's Pond, 860 Hillside Street, Milton. Program will be co-facilitated by an experienced Teacher Naturalist with over 30 years of early childhood experience and state DCR Ranger, Dan. Registration is not required, however we will ask you to sign in on arrival. This program will be held rain or shine, so please dress for both indoor and outdoor adventure fun!

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



### Mindful Movement, Stories, and Fun

Join us for a 4-week series where children will learn how to mindfully move their body, listen to stories, and have fun! This program will help with body regulation and the strengthening of your child's gross and fine motor skills. Stories, breathing exercises, yoga instruction and poses, and games will be included. This series will be held on Tuesdays, April 30 to May 21, 2024 at 101 Blue Hills Parkway in Milton at 10:30 AM. If you have a yoga mat, feel free to bring it; if not, we will have some available to use. This is a child-centric program for children with their parent/guardian. Program facilitator will be Jenny Robberson of Freckle Face Yoga. Registration is required and can be completed here: <https://forms.gle/5q4oUAS14T9LjkpFA>.



## 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. 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 Thursday, May 9th at 7:00 PM. Registration is required. To register and obtain the Zoom link and passcode, visit: <https://forms.gle/Q7uwqGunnqnKLZY6A>.

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



## Children's Concert



On Wednesday, June 5th, 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, we will post a message on our website here: <http://miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org/home0.aspx> after 4:00 PM stating we've postponed the Concert until June 6th.

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



## Stories and Friends Meet Up - Feathered Friends

We'll be having some fun while learning about birds and building bird nests, making butterfly wings to wear, measuring wing spans, stamping bird prints, and making owl puppets! Join us on Saturday, June 8, 2024 at 10:30 AM at Discovery Schoolhouse, 101 Blue Hills Parkway, Milton. Registration is not required, however, you will be asked to sign in upon arrival. For families with children 2.5 to 6 years old with their parent/guardian. This program will be co-facilitated by an experienced Teacher Naturalist with over 30 years of early childhood experience and will be held rain or shine, so please dress for both indoor and outdoor fun!

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



## MANY thanks to our 2024 Kindergarten T-shirt Sponsors!!



Abby Park and Novara Restaurants, Adams Street Early Learning Center, Beth Bourque Design Studio, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Milton, Boston Sensory Solutions, Inc., Carriage House Schools, Collicot School PTO, Cunningham School PTO, Dental 1, East Milton Dental, Elizabeth Trofatter Real Estate, Elliott Physical Therapy, Eustis Estate Museum, Fitness Unlimited, Glover School PTO, Harte Dental, Joe Parlavecchio - Edward Jones, Leading Therapy Home, Leslie Will - Coldwell Banker Realtor, Little Sprouts, Mel O'Drama School of Acting, Milton Academy, Milton Yoga Studio, Muscle & Flow, Playa Bowls, Richard Hunt Landscaping, Inc., St. Agatha School, Sly Fox Tavern, Stevie's, Sunshine School, The Campbell School, The Centre School, The Common Market Restaurants, The Friends of Milton Public Library, The Milton Woman's Club, The Skin and Body Firm, The Toy Chest at The Nutshell, Tucker School PTO, and Village School. Special thanks to Robinson & Rull Real Estate. We truly thank you all for your generous support!

***PLEASE support our sponsors - we couldn't offer our terrific programming without them!!!***

## Milton Public Library Children's Programming

Check out all the fun children's programming the Library is offering this spring! Stop by to enjoy their Story Walk, located on the outdoor patios, as well as activities found at the Children's Room center activity table. 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, Small Wonders for ages 0 to 5 on Wednesdays at 10:00 or 10:45 AM, Baby Rhyme Time for ages 0 to 12 months every other Friday at 11:00 AM, and Saturday Sillies, a weekly rotation of activities for ages 0-5, on Saturdays at 10:00 AM (runs through the end of April).

Additional programs being offered for various ages are: SPUB Club, Take and Make Crafts, Graphic Novel Book Club, Reading Dogs, Author Event with Alison McGrath, Taylor Swift Party, Animal World Experience, Pop-Up Art School, May the Fourth be With You Party, MHS Plantmobile: Botanical Art, and a Teddy Bear Picnic with musical guest the BenAnna Band! 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.

## Bay State Community Services

Did you know that Milton falls under Bay State Community Services (BSCS) umbrella? If you, or someone you know, could use their services, reach out to them with the link below. They are a community-based, social services agency offering a comprehensive continuum of care to meet the needs of all members of their communities. Presently, they provide Child and Family Services, Court Ordered Programs, Outpatient Counseling and Integrated Care, Peer Recovery Centers and Resources, Prevention Services, Rehabilitative and Community Justice Support Centers, Residential Adolescent Programs, and Family Resource Centers. Located in Quincy, Bay State Community Services provides services to many cities and towns including Milton. Their website is: <https://www.baystatecs.org/>.



## April Spring Vacation Week

Highland Street Foundation is here to help with your April School Vacation plans with Spring Week 2024! From Cape Cod to Worcester, they are excited to introduce new partners and highlight old friends with a week of FREE activities! For all information, click here: <https://www.highlandstreet.org>.

## 6 Tips for Enhancing Pretend Play

Adapted from *Talk to Me, Baby!* by Betty Bardige  
Brookes Publishing

1. Introduce new words - use dramatic play to introduce children to rare words that fit the play context. "Do you need some provisions for your journey?"
2. Add Novelty - add a new element that builds on the dramatic action or takes it in a new direction. "Should we get some ice cream to have with the cake?"
3. Be flexible - if the children ignore or misinterpret your idea, adapt to their script. Remember that play doesn't need to be totally logical.
4. Reverse roles - take the part of a whiny baby, a distraught child, or a demanding customer. Let children be the caregivers, teachers, or service providers.
5. Illustrate consequences - as you play your role, highlight the consequences of your own and your playmates' actions. Model appropriate ways to express and explain your feelings.
6. Help children learn scripts - for example, if a child is struggling, you might coach them in how to play "store", enacting your role and modeling or prompting theirs.

## Is Your Child Developing on Target for Their Age?

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 an online 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 [nperez@miltonps.org](mailto:nperez@miltonps.org)  
[www.miltonps.org](http://www.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  
<https://wic.bamsi.org/quincy/>  
Interfaith Social Services  
call 617-773-6203 x19  
<https://interfaithsocialservices.org/>

## 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).

## 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 Philip'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

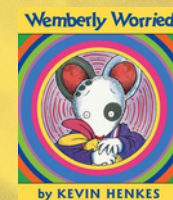
This feels like a mini canyon. Best for ages 5 and up. Across the street are a playground and picnic tables. May or may not charge for parking.

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

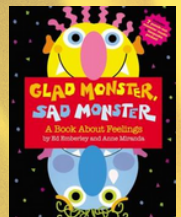
## Little Children Have Big Feelings, Too Book Suggestions...



**The Grouchy Ladybug**  
by Eric Carle



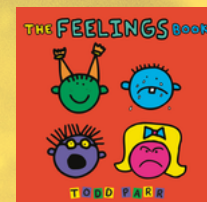
**Wemberly Worried**  
By Kevin Henkes



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



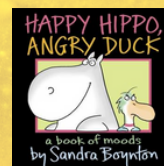
**My Many Colored Days**  
By Dr. Seuss



**The Feelings Book**  
By Todd Parr



**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 state licensed childcare programs and family childcare providers in town, surrounding cities and towns, or via your driving route.

## Local Resources

The Milton Early Childhood Alliance maintains a comprehensive online 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 or a summer program? They'll need name tags and clothing labels!

*Mabel's Labels is having a 20% off sale!*

There are labels for water bottles, lunch boxes, backpacks, clothing, personal items, etc.

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

Simply visit [Mabels Labels](http://MabelsLabels.com), type in Milton Early Childhood Alliance, and start shopping.

**Sale ends 5/30 - Shipping is free!!**

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

## Milton Public Schools Summer Enrichment Program

MPS Summer fun is just around the corner! MSE is a fabulous way to spend some of your summer days. Milton Summer Enrichment (MSE) registration is open on Family ID. The MSE 2024 Brochure is linked [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.

## 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 Playground

115 Paris St., East Boston

### Esplanade Playground

Esplanade on the Charles River, Boston

### Hunt Almont Playground

Almont and Orlando Street, Mattapan

### Sweeney Playground

177 West 5th St., South Boston

### Little Scobie Playground

42 Copeland St., Roxbury

### Alexander W. Kemp Playground

36 Waterhouse St. Cambridge

### Chuckie Harris Playground

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.

