

# Spring Newsletter

2026



*Milton Early*

*Childhood Alliance*

Serving families with children birth to age 6  
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** - Enjoy a children's story posted along the inside 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! The stories change every couple of months and are posted year-round! 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** - Enjoy a children's story posted along the walking path on the grounds of the Trailside Museum. You and your child can 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!

### Kidleidoscope: a children's nature program!



Kidleidoscope is a FREE weekly nature program for young children, held every Friday morning at 10:00 AM at Houghton's Pond. Each session includes a nature-themed story, a fun fine-motor activity, and an outdoor nature walk with Ranger Dan! Every week brings a new theme, story, and hands-on activity to explore the wonders of nature together. Designed for children ages 2-5 with an accompanying adult, our spring Kidleidoscope sessions will take place on April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 29, June 5, 12, and 26. We'll learn all about racoons, trees, robins, bird nests, bees, flowers, ducks, bunnies, and more! This program includes both indoor and outdoor activities, so families are welcome to join us for all or part of each session. Come to one—or come to them all! Registration is not required; however, you will be asked to sign in upon arrival.

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

*This program is provided in collaboration with the MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation.*



### Stories and Friends Meet Up: Signs of Spring!

Join us for a spring adventure! We'll be learning how to recognize that spring is here, creating some great works of art, and going on a nature walk looking for signs of spring with Ranger Dan! This program will be held on Saturday, May 16th 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. Registration is not required; however, you will be asked to sign in upon arrival.

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

*This program is provided in collaboration with the MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation.*



## 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 14th at 7:00 PM. Registration is required. To register and obtain the Zoom link and passcode, visit: <https://forms.gle/k8FzHdbsDvN4DRFc9>.

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



## Infant Massage and Sign Language

Join Sheryl White of Baby Kneads for two incredible infant workshops that will teach you how to massage, relax, and soothe your newborn to pre-crawling baby and ways to teach your baby many American Sign Language Signs.

*Infant Massage* will meet on Wednesday, May 20th at 1:00 PM in the Story Hour room of Milton Public Library.

Registration for this session opens May 6<sup>th</sup>. Details can be found [here](#).

*Infant Sign Language* will meet on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM also in the Story Hour room of Milton Public Library.

Registration for this session opens May 13<sup>th</sup>. Details can be found [here](#).

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

*These workshops are provided in collaboration with Milton Public Library.*



## Children's Concert



On Wednesday, June 3rd, 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 this fall. Bring a blanket for an evening of fun! Registration is not required. If it looks like rain, we'll post a message on our website [here](#) after 4:00 PM stating we've postponed the Concert until June 4th.

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

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

## Information and Resources for You...

### Milton Public Library Children's Programming

Check out all the fun children's programming the Library is offering this Spring! Stop by to meet the 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 the little chick friends when they finally break through their shells. The chicks will be living at the library until April 22. 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, and Baby Rhyme Time for ages 0 to 12 months every other Friday at 11:00 AM.

Additional programs being offered for various ages are: SPUB Club, Kid Lit Kits, Take and Make Crafts, Graphic Novel Book Club, Reading Dogs, Pokemon Club, Afterschool Specials, Nintendo Switch Freeplays, Freckle Face Yoga, Nature is our Teacher, Art with Ginny, Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Historic New England: Patriots Day, Cooks and Books, Mad Science, Bookend Art, Pop-Up Art School, Mel O'Drama, and Baby Massage and Infant Sign Language with Baby Kneads! 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 Audience to choose Children's Programs.

# Information and Resources for You...

Have you Attended our Programming this School Year???

If so, we would love to hear from you!

Please take a less than a minute to complete our parent survey, which will guide us as we plan our future programming. Scan this QR code to begin.

We hope to hear from you!!



## April Spring Vacation Week

Find free entrance to various museums across the state for family fun during April School Vacation Week!! The Highland Street Foundation is excited to both broaden and introduce new partnerships across the state. From Cape Cod to Western Mass, Spring Week represents the geographical diversity of the arts & culture community with a week of FREE opportunities! For more details, click here: <https://www.highlandstreet.org>.

### Spring Week

April 20-24, 2026  
[www.HighlandStreet.org](http://www.HighlandStreet.org)

MON 4/20	TUE 4/21	WED 4/22	THU 4/23	FRI 4/24
Concord Museum 9 am - 5 pm	*Battleship Cove* 9 am - 5 pm	Discovery Museum 9 am - 4:30 pm	*The Zoo in Forest Park* 10 am - 3 pm	Harvard Museums of Science & Culture 9 am - 5 pm
Revolutionary Spaces 10 am - 5 pm	Real Pirates Salem 10 am - 4 pm	Boston Public Market Earth Day Festival 10 am - 3 pm	Historic Deerfield 9:30 am - 4:30 pm	Museum of Worcester 10 am - 4 pm
New Bedford Whaling Museum 9 am - 5 pm	Children's Museum at Holyoke 9 am - 4 pm	Cape Cod Children's Museum 12 pm - 5 pm	Boston Common Frog Pond Carousel 10 am - 4 pm	Paul Revere Museum of Discovery and Innovation 1 pm - 7 pm

\* Denotes advanced registration is required. Please visit HighlandStreet.org for signup information\*

## Welcome Spring!

### Scavenger Hunt!

 Stick	 Ant	 Bird
 Pinecone	 Flower	 Squirrel
 Grass	 Mud	 Leaf

Brought to you by:

Milton Early Childhood Alliance  
a program of Discovery Schoolhouse

## Do you wonder about your Child's Development?

If you're like most parents, you probably have a lot of questions when a doctor or teacher says your child will be screened. You know your child better than anyone else, and the thought of "scoring" what they can and can't do might make you feel apprehensive. You might wonder how a questionnaire can accurately capture all your child's skills, and if screening might lead to a label or diagnosis. And as a busy, concerned parent, you might have practical questions too, like how long is this going to take? and what happens next?



- Did you know that we at the Milton Early Childhood Alliance provide FREE developmental screenings on a regular basis for children 2 mos. to 5.5 years old?
- Our screening is a quick check of your child's development and provides a fast and helpful look at how your child is doing in important areas like communication, social skills, motor skills, and problem-solving skills.
- We can help you identify your child's strengths, uncover new milestones to celebrate, and reveal any areas where your child may need support. We can also help you understand your child's current development and let you know what to look for next.



The great thing about the Ages & Stages Developmental Questionnaire we use is that it's strengths-focused—the emphasis is really on what your child can do. It's the perfect way to keep track of milestones and celebrate them as your child grows and develops! And, if a concern arises, we can refer you to Step One Early Intervention or Milton Public Schools, depending on your child's age.



These are the five important areas of development that each questionnaire looks at:

**Communication:** Your child's language skills, both what your child understands and what he or she can say.

**Gross Motor:** How your child uses their arms and legs and other large muscles for sitting, crawling, walking, running, and other activities.

**Fine Motor:** Your child's hand and finger movement and coordination.

**Problem Solving:** How your child plays with toys and solves problems.

**Personal-Social:** Your child's self-help skills and interactions with others.



To help this to be as easy as possible for you, this Questionnaire can be taken online in the comfort of your home. We will receive an email once you have submitted the Questionnaire and reach out to you with the results. We will also provide you with free learning activities to keep your child on-target for their age and will provide you with additional learning activities for their next age range - again, all for FREE!

Link to our Ages & Stages Questionnaire: <https://www.asqonline.com/family/8fd7d7>

## Family Resource Center

Did you know that the Quincy Family Resource Center (QFRC) is there for you?

They provide on-site and virtual programs, services and activities for families and work with caregivers, youth of all ages, extended family members, and any member of the community seeking support.

They work in close partnership with mental health providers, medical providers, schools, the juvenile court system, town and city governments, civic and religious organizations and DCF among other state agencies.

All services at the QFRC are free of charge and insurance is not needed. Their website is <https://www.quincyfamilyrc.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)

## 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://www.bamsi.org/bamsi-kids/wic/>

Interfaith Social Services

call 617-773-6203 x19

<https://interfaithsocialservices.org/>

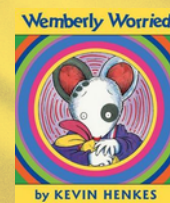
For a comprehensive listing of all food resources, check out Milton's list, updated regularly:

<https://ma-milton.civicplus.com/1151/Mass-in-Motion>

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



The Grouchy Ladybug  
by Eric Carle



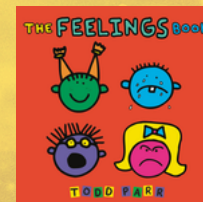
Wemberly Worried  
By Kevin Henkes



Glad Monster,  
Sad Monster  
By Ed Emberley



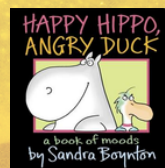
My Many Colored Days  
By Dr. Seuss



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

## 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!

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](#), 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!*

## Did You Know?

If you read just 1 book a day to your child, they will have read 1,825 books by their 5th birthday!!



## 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!

### Andrews Park

Belcher Circle, Milton

### Shields Park

392 Eliot Street, Milton

### Mary C. Lane Playground

236 Randolph Avenue, Milton

### Kelly Field

250 Brook Road, Milton

### Cunningham Park

75 Edge Hill Road, Milton

### 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

### Beaver Brook Playground

Ralph G Hamlin Junior Lane, Abington

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