

Winter Newsletter

2023



Milton Early Childhood Alliance

a program of

Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc.

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



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www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org

We're on on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#) at:
Milton Early Childhood Alliance



Our Winter Programming...always free!

Toddler and Preschool Virtual Playgroup Series

Join us for fun, stories, songs, movement, and engaging activities created just for toddlers and preschoolers, online accompanied by an adult. This playgroup series will meet virtually via Zoom on Wednesdays, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, and 15, at 10:30 AM. Activity bags, filled with supplies and materials, will be available for pick up and include everything needed to participate in this playgroup series! Completion of the Ages & Stages Questionnaire, to help better understand your child's growth and development, will be requested of you. **Registration is required** and can be completed here: <https://forms.gle/MtU7UpV6woYYq54UA>. **Upon completion of this series, you will receive children's books for you and your child to enjoy together, generously donated by Robinson & Rull Real Estate Agents!**



Learning Through Play Preschool Playgroup Series

We are offering a FREE 8-week Preschool Playgroup Series to residents of Milton, Quincy, and Randolph. We will meet in person on Saturdays, March 18 through May 6, 2023 from 10:00-11:30 AM at 101 Blue Hills Pkwy. in Milton. This program is for children who are 3 and 4 years old with their parent/guardian. It will be facilitated by Dotty Alexander, Ed.D., Professor of Education at Curry College and will focus on language, social/emotional, and fine and gross motor skills. Completion of the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), will be required and will help us specifically plan this series for your child's developmental skill level. Registration will open on February 1st and can be found at this link: <https://forms.gle/NLD1AspmX1XcUH5T6>. **This program is funded through the Beth Israel Deaconess-Milton Community Health Grant. Upon completion of this series, you will receive children's books for you and your child to enjoy together, generously donated by Robinson & Rull Real Estate Agents!** Feel free to email cpcmecasld@verizon.net with questions.

Stories and Friends Meet Up: Signs of Winter

Meet and connect with other families with young children and enjoy some winter fun! We'll meet at the Visitor's Center at Houghton's Pond, enjoy some stories and songs, look for animal tracks in the snow, and complete a fun hands-on snowman activity. Children will have the opportunity to meet Ranger Dan, who will read the StoryWalk® posted on the grounds. Registration is not required; however, you will need to sign in upon arrival. Please dress for both indoor and outdoor weather. A free animal tracks activity will be distributed to the first 35 children who sign in that morning. This program will meet on Saturday, February 18th, at 10:30 AM at 860 Hillside Street in Milton. *Many thanks to our Kindergarten T-shirt sponsors for their generous support of this program!*



Story Walk at Houghton's Pond

Enjoy a terrific children's story with your family at Houghton's Pond this winter! Houghton's Pond is open daily from dawn to dusk and is located at 860 Hillside Street in Milton. The story Owl Babies is currently posted; a new classic winter story, The Mitten, will be posted mid to late-January. This is a very unique and fun early literacy experience which we are sure you and your family will enjoy!



It's Kindergarten Pre-Registration Time!

It's time to pre-register for Kindergarten! Milton Public Schools Kindergarten Information Night will be held on Thursday, January 26th, 2023 at 6:30 PM. Children must be age five on or before August 31, 2023 to be eligible. Incoming kindergarten parents and guardians will be able to learn about kindergarten and have an opportunity to ask any questions you might have. This information session will take place virtually through a link posted on Milton Public Schools website prior to the event. The pre-registration form, *which should be completed prior to Kindergarten Information Night*, can be found at: [2023/2024 Kindergarten Pre-registration Questionnaire \(google.com\)](#). Please contact Marti O'Keefe McKenna at mmckenna@miltonps.org, should you have any questions.



Milton Public Library Children's Programming

Have you signed up yet for their Winter Reading Challenge: All the Feels? Register today at miltonlibrary.beanstack.org to participate in this BINGO challenge for all ages, running from Jan. 1 - 31. Stop by to enjoy their new Story Walk, located on their outdoor patios, as well as monthly rotating 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, and Saturday Stories for ages 0-5 on Saturdays at 10:00 AM. Additional programs offered for various ages are: SPUB Club, Tiny Art Show, N.E. Botanic Garden: Mason Jar Gardens, Take and Make Crafts, Tales from the Story Hat, Reading Dogs, Graphic Novel Book Club, Stuffed Animal Sleepover, African and African-American Folktales with Eshu Bumpus, Art with Ginny, Mad Science, Baby Rhyme Time, and much more! For more details 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.

Local and State 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.

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>.

Mabel's Labels

Do you use clothing labels for back to school, sports, childcare or after school programs, senior housing, assisted living and/or nursing homes?

Mabel's Labels would be a terrific source for your clothing label needs! There are also labels for water bottles, lunch boxes, 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. **Right now, you'll receive 20% off your first order and shipping is free!!**



Be a Kindergarten T-Shirt Sponsor!

If you are a local business, or know someone who is, and is interested in reaching over 450 families with young children, then consider being a kindergarten t-shirt sponsor! Sponsorships are available at two price points - small font or large font. Your business name will be printed on the back of every kindergarten t-shirt distributed to children entering kindergarten next fall at Milton Public Schools, St. Agatha School, Milton Academy, and Discovery Schoolhouse. Your generous contribution is tax deductible and will support vital programming, supplies, and materials for our story times, playgroups, and seasonal family events!! Feel free to contact us at cpcmecasld@verizon.net for more information or [click here for sponsorship form](#).

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

Just email cpcmecasld@verizon.net, let us know the age of your child, and we'll send you comprehensive information on all licensed childcare programs and family child care providers in town, surrounding cities and towns, or via your driving route.



Fun Indoor Family Activities

- Make crafts using items around the house, like tin foil, cotton balls, paper towel rolls, boxes, etc.
- Practice making snowballs, icicles, and snowflakes with playdough.
- Write a story together - let your child be the narrator and artist while you write down their words.
- Creatively read a book together - ask your child to "read" a story simply by looking at the pictures, then you "read" the story by looking at the pictures. Finally, read the authors word and you have three stories for one book!
- Put a puzzle together as a family, or play games that your child chooses.
- Bake cookies and don't forget to include some basic math in your conversation with them.
- Show your child how to do random acts of kindness and explain why they are important.
- Build a fort in the living room with blankets and pillows and read stories with a flashlight.
- Visit our Story Walk at Houghton's Pond and enjoy the playground and outdoors while there.



Create a Snowy Window

What You'll Need:

clear contact paper

tape

Q-tips

cotton balls

cotton rounds or circles cut out of paper

Instructions:

Tape a piece of clear contact paper, with sticky side toward indoors. Have your child stick the items on the contact paper to create a winter scene. Ask them to describe what they are making and why to encourage conversation and vocabulary. Let your child's creativity lead this activity!

Developmental Skills:

This activity is great for increasing your child's fine motor skills by strengthening the muscles and tendons in their fingers, wrists, and hands. Your child will also be learning about cause and effect, and increasing their vocabulary by telling or describing what they are doing.

Credit: notimeforflashcards.com



Parents Helping Parents

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 on their website at: www.parentshelpingparents.org. Empowering parents to nurture children and build stronger families.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are looking for parents and grandparents of young children (birth to 8 years old) to join our Advisory Council. If you would like to help inform our programs and share your thoughts and ideas, please email cpcmecasld@verizon.net.

We would love to hear from you!

Join Our Parent Email List!

Keep up to date on all of our free programs and events by joining our parent email list. Just email cpcmecasld@verizon.net and ask to be added. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram at Milton Early Childhood Alliance.

Food Assistance

Milton Public Schools:

call 617-898-1051

email 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

www.wic.bamsi.org/

Interfaith Social Services

call 617-773-6203 x19

www.interfaithsocialservices.org/food/

Five Great Sledding Hills on the South Shore

(from The Patriot Ledger)

Coast Guard Hill, Marshfield - This popular sledding spot, at 900 Ferry St., is maintained by the town's recreation department. Hay bales are placed in front of trees to keep sledders from being injured. The long hike to the top of the hill is well worth making - for a couple of reasons. You can take in a beautiful view of the ocean, then ride down the 200-foot slope.

South Shore Country Club, Hingham - South Shore Country Club contains a variety of hills. The golf course is largely free of trees, so there are lots of wide-open expanses for sledding. Check out the hills near the club entrance on South Street, or park on Fort Hill Street for the biggest slopes.

First Parish Church, Norwell - This hill is well-suited for those who have young children or are looking for a slower, easier ride. The spacious field, at 24 River St., has plenty of fenced-in space for sledding, and you can park in the church lot.

Borderland State Park, Easton - The hill behind the Ames Mansion has been a popular sledding spot for years. If pulling your sled up the hill isn't enough exercise for you, you can also hike the park's many trails or have a snowball fight in the spacious fields. Parking is \$5 for Massachusetts residents.

Presidents Golf Course - This golf course, on the Quincy-Milton border, is another location that provides clear paths for adventurous sledders. Its multiple hills make it a popular local spot, sure to be busy after a snowfall.

Great Winter Books for Children



Sneezy the Snowman
by Maureen Wright



Red Sled by
Lita Judge



The Mitten by
Jan Brett



Froggy Gets Dressed
by Jonathan London



The Snowy Day by
Ezra Jack Keats



Owl Moon by
Jane Yolen

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

