

Winter Newsletter

2025



Milton Early Childhood Alliance

a program of

Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc.

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



Contact us at:

495 Canton Avenue

Milton, MA 02186

Susan L. Dolan, Director

email: cpcmecasl@verizon.net

Phone: 617-696-2262

Website:

www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org

We're on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#) at:

Milton Early Childhood Alliance



Our Winter Programming...always FREE!

Learning Through Play Preschool Playgroup Series

Our incredibly popular Playgroup series returns! Join us for a fun, interactive, and engaging Preschool Playgroup Series, which will focus on children's language, social/emotional, and fine and gross motor skills. Open to residents of Milton, Quincy, and Randolph with funding from the Beth Israel Deaconess-Milton Community Health Grant. We will meet on Saturdays, January 25th through March 8th, 2025 from 10:00-11:30 AM at 101 Blue Hills Parkway in Milton. This program is for children who are 3 years old, 4 years old, and 5 years old (IF they missed the kindergarten entrance deadline last September), with their parent/guardian. It will be facilitated by Dotty Alexander, Ed.D., Professor of Education at Curry College. Completion of the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) will be required for each child you would like to register. Completion of the ASQ will serve as pre-registration for this playgroup series. You will receive a link to finish registration once the completed ASQ is received by us (this may take a few days). The link to complete the ASQ is: <https://www.asqonline.com/family/8fd7d7>. Feel free to email cpcmecasl@verizon.net with questions.

This program is funded through the Beth Israel Deaconess-Milton Community Health Grant.





Stories and Friends Meet Up - Animals in Winter

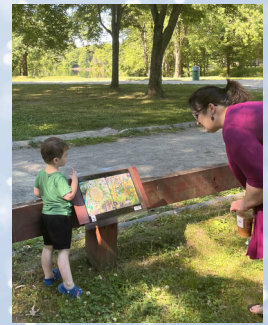
As part of our ongoing STEM programming, we're learning about what happens to animals in winter! Where do they go or live? What do they eat? How do they stay warm? How can you tell they are there? We'll have stories, songs, and activities included in this program to help make the learning interactive and fun. We'll be stamping, painting, decorating, gluing, and tracing, so please dress accordingly for an indoor and outdoor program. Meet Ranger Dan, who will take the children on a scavenger hunt looking for animal tracks. This program will be held on Saturday, February 1st 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 in Milton. Registration is not required; however, you will be asked to sign in upon arrival. If weather requires postponement, we will post a message on the home page of our website, www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org, by 8:00 AM that morning.

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

Story Walk at Houghton's Pond

Enjoy a terrific children's story with your family outdoors in nature!! We have posted a children's story on the fencing around the playground at Houghton's Pond, near their Visitor's Center building. Play in the playground, enjoy the grounds, and read a story while you are there! Houghton's Pond is free, open daily from dawn to dusk, and located at 860 Hillside Street in Milton.

Mother and child enjoying the Story Walk at Houghton's Pond.



Story Walk at The Trailside Museum

Enjoy a great children's story with your family outdoors in nature!! We have posted a children's story on the fencing that encircles the walking path at the Trailside Museum. Walk their grounds, visit with the animals, and read a story while you are there! The Trailside Museum's outdoor grounds are free, open daily 9:00-4:00, and located at 1904 Canton Avenue in Milton.

Jake from Trailside Museum helping install the Story Walk.



Kindergarten Pre-registration and Information Night

Kindergarten Pre-registration and Information Night! If your child will be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2025, it's time to pre-register for Milton Public Schools Kindergarten and plan to attend their virtual Kindergarten Information Night. To pre-register for Kindergarten, click [here](#). Save the date for Kindergarten Information Night, being held on Thursday, January 23rd at 6:30 PM. A link to join the virtual presentation will be posted to the district webpage, www.miltonps.org, and emailed to families who have completed pre-registration (link above), closer to the event. Please email registration@miltonps.org or call 617-696-4470 ext. 5516 with any questions you might have.



Baby Sign Language

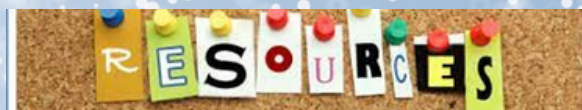
Join Milton Public Library for a special Saturday Sillies on February 8th: Baby Sign Language! In this playful introductory workshop with Sheryl White of Baby Kneads, participants will learn ways to use sign language to communicate with their little ones. Baby Sign has many benefits, such as giving babies the ability to express themselves before they can speak verbally, deepening the bond between adult and child, and enhancing early literacy skills. Babies and toddlers can learn signs important to their lifestyle such as "milk", "more", "sleep", "eat", "Mommy", "Daddy" and so on. This program is for caregivers with pre-verbal babies & toddlers. Both child and caregiver can participate in the program.

Milton Public Library Happenings

Check out all the fun children's programming the Library is offering this winter! Stop by to enjoy their Story Walk, Go, Sled! Go! by James Yang located on the outdoor patios. 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. Additional programs being offered for various ages are: SPUB Club, Take and Make Crafts, Graphic Novel Book Club, Reading Dogs, Pokemon Club, Freckle Face Yoga, Pop Up Art School, Tiny Art Show, Art with Sue, Cookbook Club for Kids, Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Cooks with Books, and an Author Visit with Natakki Jones! For more details and registration information, visit their website at miltonlibrary.org, click on Events, and use the drop-down menu to choose Upcoming Events, and the drop-down menu under Audience for Children.

CHILD CARE

Simply email us at cpcmecasLd@verizon.net, let us know the age of your child, and we'll answer any questions you may have and 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.



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.



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>.

Fine Motor Activity

Cotton Swab Snowflakes



What you'll need:

- 12 (or more) cotton swabs
- glue: liquid or stick
- pieces of colored paper
- scissors
- ribbon or string

What your child will do:

- Cut cotton swabs to various lengths (younger children may need more help than older children).
- Lay the cotton swab pieces out on the colored paper until your child has achieved their desired design. Let your child lead this activity.
- Glue down each swab piece in place (younger children may need more help than older children).
- Make a hole in colored paper, add ribbon or string, and hang.

Mabel's Labels

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

Consider using Mabel's Labels! They have labels for clothing, water bottles, lunch boxes, personal items, etc.

When you make a purchase, you'll be supporting us!!

Simply visit:

www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com
type in Milton Early Childhood Alliance,
and start shopping.
Shipping is free!!



Food Assistance

Milton Public Schools:

call 617-898-1051

email nperez@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://www.bamsi.org/bamsi-kids/wic/>

Interfaith Social Services

call 617-773-6203 x19

www.interfaithsocialservices.org/food/



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.

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.

Also check out this interactive sledding map of the area from Community Kangaroo!!

<https://communitykangaroo.com/braintree/sledding/>

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.



**Our
annual
Fundraiser!**



Our 2024 T-shirt sponsors - THANK YOU!

Be a Kindergarten T-Shirt Sponsor!

If you are a local business, or know someone who is, and are interested in reaching over 475 families with young children, then consider becoming 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, and Milton Academy. Your generous contribution is tax deductible and will support vital programming not covered in our grant, 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](#) or scan this QR code:

