

Winter Newsletter

2026



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 [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#) at:

Milton Early Childhood Alliance

Our Winter Programming...always FREE!

Kidleidoscope - a Weekly 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 winter Kidleidoscope sessions will take place on January 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th; February 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th; and March 6th and 13th. We'll meet inside the Visitor's Center and learn all about animal tracks, snowflakes, groundhogs, snowy owls, trees, bats, raccoons, 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!

Many thanks to The Milton Woman's Club for their generous nature book donation!

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

Stories and Friends: Wonderful Winter Time

Prepare for a fun learning experience and join us for a winter adventure full of stories, creativity, and hands-on fun! Little learners will explore the wonders of winter by discovering animal homes, learning about snow, and spotting animal tracks through stamping, painting, gluing, and tracing activities. Ranger Dan will guide us on an exciting animal-track hunt, so be sure to dress for both indoor and outdoor fun!

This program is perfect for children ages 2.5 to 6 years old with a grown-up by their side. We'll meet inside the Houghton's Pond Visitor's Center on Saturday, January 31st at 10:30 AM. No registration needed—however, you will be asked to sign in when you arrive.

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: Magnificent Maples

Enjoy the fun as we explore maple trees and the sweet world of maple sugaring! Children will learn how maple trees grow and produce sap through fun, hands-on activities. Along the way, we'll create leaf crowns, wreaths, paintings, and rubbings. Ranger Dan will join us to share fun facts about maple trees and their sap, and we'll head outdoors too—so please dress for both indoor and outdoor adventures!

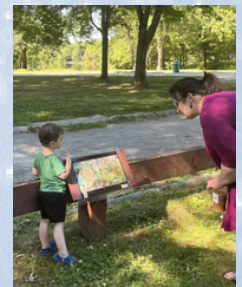
This program is perfect for children ages 2.5 to 6 years old with a grown-up. The program will take place in March, with the date to be announced soon—keep an eye out for the flyer or feel free to email cpcmecasld@verizon.net in late January for final details. No registration is required—just come ready to create and explore, and 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.*

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.



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 of Just One Flake by Travis Jonker, 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, 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, Pop-Up Art School, Tiny Art Show, Drums Alive with Abilities Rec, Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Family Puzzle Competition, Art with Sue, Intro. to Martial Arts, Irish Step Performance, Mel O'Drama, and the return of our baby chicks! Visit their website at: miltonlibrary.org, for more details.

Kindergarten Information Night

Milton Public Schools is excited to begin welcoming the Class of 2039! If your child will be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2026, it's time for Kindergarten Information Night. To participate in the information night Zoom meeting on Thursday, January 15th at 6:30 PM, click [here](#) and use the passcode: 414482. There will not be a pre-registration link to register for Milton Public Schools Kindergarten this year. This Zoom presentation will be available online at miltonps.org after January 16th.



A Calming Evening Routine Prepares Children for Sleep

After the day's chaos, taking just 10-15 minutes to unwind with a story can significantly help your child relax. Engaging in a quiet activity allows their mind to settle while their body unwinds. Many parents find that this calming ritual benefits them too, creating a peaceful transition from the active day to restful night.

Looking at Books Prepares Children for Reading

Even before they can read, children absorb so much while looking at a book. They learn to recognize letters and understand that words are made up of groups of letters. They begin to grasp that pages are read from left to right and top to bottom—essential skills that don't come automatically. Additionally, reading exposes them to new vocabulary and helps distinguish between spoken and written language.

Reading Sparks Imagination

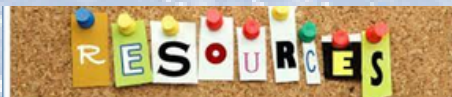
Unlike watching a television show, where the story unfolds without any effort from the viewer, reading requires children to engage their imagination. They create mental images of the story as they follow along, actively participating in the narrative. Children who enjoy being read to often develop a love for exploring books on their own, using their minds and memories to retell the tales they've heard.

Reading Expands a Child's Understanding of the World

Children's books, especially picture books, often reflect familiar experiences—like bedtime routines or school activities—providing context for their daily lives. Characters in these stories might take baths, brush their teeth, or say goodnight, reinforcing these concepts. Additionally, books can introduce new experiences, such as visiting a zoo or traveling on an airplane, broadening their horizons.

Reading Together Strengthens Your Bond

Bedtime reading creates a special moment at the end of the day, allowing for peaceful, quality time with mom or dad. This shared experience offers opportunities for questions and discussions, fostering emotional connections. It's a wonderful way to end the day with affection and cuddles, reinforcing your bond and creating cherished memories.



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.



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.



Is Your Child Developing on Target for Their Age?

Curious about how your child is growing and learning? Through the Help Me Grow program, the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) is a FREE, easy-to-use tool that helps you discover your child's strengths and identify areas where they may need a little extra practice. Designed for children from birth to 5½ years old, the ASQ can be completed multiple times as your child grows. Simply fill out the online questionnaire from the comfort of your home and submit it for scoring. We'll share the results with you, guide you through any next steps, and provide fun, simple activities to support your child's continued growth and development—all at no cost to you!

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 Food Pantry:

call 617-696-0221

www.miltonfoodpantryma.org

WIC - Women, Infants & Children

call Quincy's office 617-376-8701

<https://wic.bamsi.org/>

Interfaith Social Services

call 617-773-6203 x19

www.interfaithsocialservices.org/food/

Project Bread:

call hotline 1-800-645-8333

www.projectbread.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>

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.

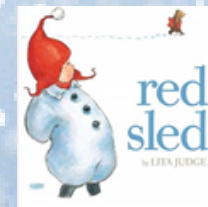
Also check out this interactive sledding map of the area from Community Kangaroo!!

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

Great Winter Books for Children



Sneezzy 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



Over and Under the Snow
by Kate Messner



Katy and the Big Snow by
Virginia Lee Burton

