

Fall Newsletter

2026

Milton Early Childhood Alliance

a program of



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Website:

www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org

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

Milton Early Childhood Alliance

Our Fall Programming...always free!

Story Walks

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 open daily from dawn to dusk and located at 860 Hillside Street in Milton.

Story Walk at 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, bring a snack to enjoy at their picnic tables, 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.

What is a StoryWalk®? It's a self-guided, unique, and fun way to enjoy a children's story book outdoors. Pages of a book are laminated to protect them from the weather and posted in areas of town that are child-friendly. And, the pages are numbered so you don't lose your way!

Photo: Jake installing the Story Walk at the Trailside Museum.



Kidleidoscope: a Children's Nature Program

Join us and Ranger Dan at the weekly Kidleidoscope children's program at Houghton's Pond for a fun, interactive children's nature program. This program includes a nature-based story, a fun fine motor activity, and a nature walk with Ranger Dan! Each week features a different nature theme, story, and activity on that theme. Suitable for ages 2-5 with an adult. This program is held on most Friday mornings. Fall dates are: October 2, 9, 16, 23, November 27, December 4, 11, and 18. Kidleidoscope is FREE and starts at 10:00 AM at the Houghton's Pond Visitors Center, 860 Hillside Street in Milton. If the weather is cooperative, we'll meet outside under the big, beautiful tree in front of the Visitors Center; if not, we'll meet indoors. This awesome program is in collaboration with the MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation.

Resources and Information

Milton Public Library Happenings

Check out all the fun children's programming the Milton Public Library is offering this fall! Stop by to enjoy their Story Walk, 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 daily programs for various ages are: Pokemon Club, LEGO Club, Graphic Novel Book Club, Kid Lit Kits, Mel O'Drama, Creative Writing Club, Winnie the Pooh Birthday Party, Afterschool Specials, Reading Dogs, Author Visits, Freckly Face Yoga, Halloween Jamboree, Mini Masters: Exploring Famous Artists, Mad Science, Candy Land, Board Games & Hot Cocoa, and New Year's Eve Take Home Kits! For more details and registration information, visit their website at: miltonlibrary.org, click on Events, and use the drop-down menu under Audience to choose Children's Programs.



Know If Your Child is Developing on Target for Their Age!

Studies show that parents' observations of their children's development are excellent predictors of developmental delays. It is estimated that 1 in 7 children are affected by developmental delays, learning disorders, and behavioral and social-emotional problems. Only a fraction of these children (20% to 30%) are identified as needing help before school begins.

By completing a developmental screening tool online, which we can provide for free, you as their parent can check your child's development and together, we can address any potential concerns. Intervention prior to kindergarten has huge benefits because it sets children up for future success!

Complete the FREE developmental screening tool online at <https://www.asqonline.com/family/8fd7d7>. We will email you the results within a few days and help with next steps, if any, or provide you with helpful activities to keep your child developing on target for their age!



Is Your Family Interested in Applying for a Childcare Voucher?

The MA Dept. of Early Education and Care has launched a new website to help families apply for childcare financial assistance and manage their application process online. This website is called MyChildCareMA and can be found here: <https://childcare.mass.gov/families/login>. From this self-service website portal you can:

- Apply for the Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA) waitlist
- Submit application documentation
- Check application status
- Track the application over time
- Read letters from the Administrator

If your family is already on the waitlist, you do not need to apply again, but you do need to create an account at childcare.mass.gov/families.

Continued: Resources and Information

Leaf Rubbing Project

You'll need:

Various leaves not yet dried out
White paper
Crayons without paper wrappers

Instructions:

Help your child lay a leaf under a white piece of paper. Have your child use the side of a crayon and rub it back and forth over the white paper in the area of the paper where the leaf is underneath. Watch the shape and structure of the leaf appear!

To make a pretty collage, suggest to your child that they use different shaped leaves and different colored crayons to create various leaf rubbings to fill the white paper with colorful leaves. Your child may need to press down hard to achieve the desired result.

Developmental Skill: This a great fine motor skill that will help develop the muscles and tendons in their hand, wrist, and fingers!



Apple Picking Locations*



C.N. Smith Farm in East Bridgewater
The Big Apple in Wrentham
Fairmount Fruit Farm in Franklin
Tangerini's Spring Street Farm in Millis
Dowse Orchards in Sherborn
Sunshine Farm in Sherborn
Lookout Farm in Natick
Brooksby Farm in Peabody
Connemara House Farm in Topsfield

*Fees may apply.



Corn Field Maze Locations*



Sauchuk Farms in Plympton
Hanson's Farm in Framingham
Marini Farm in Ipswich
Mike's Maze in Sunderland
Taft Farms in Great Barrington
Schartner Farms in Bolton
Davis Mega Maze in Sterling
Ward's Berry Farm in Sharon
Langwater Farm in Easton
Simcock Farm in Swansea

*Fees may apply.



Continued: Resources and Information



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 a comprehensive listing of all licensed childcare programs and providers in town, surrounding cities and towns, or via your driving route.



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>.

Are you looking for resources and/or information?

The Milton Early Childhood Alliance maintains a comprehensive Milton Parents Resource Manual on our website. Check it out at www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org.

Many thanks to our Kindergarten Days Sponsors!!



Elliott Physical Therapy
Forbes House Museum
Harte Dental
Historic New England Eustis Estate Museum
Ichiro Sushi
Mackie's Barbershop
Milton Public Library
Mr. Chan's
Rise and Thrive Refreshment Stand at
Houghton's Pond
Starbucks
The Friends of Milton Public Library
The Fruit Center Marketplace
The Ice Creamsmith
The Toy Chest at the Nutshell
William James Gifts

*Please help us thank these sponsors
for their generosity!*

Fall Farm Fun*

Visit each website for more information.

[Brookwood Community Farm](#), Milton
[Tougas Family Farm](#), Northborough
[Ward's Berry Farm](#), Sharon
[Davis Farmland](#), Sterling
[Langwater Farm](#), North Easton
[Russell Orchards](#), Ipswich
[Honey Pot Hill Orchards](#), Stow
[Pakeen Farm](#), Canton
[Shelburne Farm](#), Stow
[Sauchuk Farm](#), Plympton
[Kimball Farm](#), Westford
[Cider Hill Farm](#), Amesbury
[West End Creamery](#), Whitinsville
[Brooksby Farm](#), Peabody
[Drumlin Farm](#), Lincoln
[Simcock Farm](#), Swansea

*Fees may apply.



Continued: Resources and Information

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!!



Mabel's Labels

Do you need 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 this website:

https://mabelslabels.com/en_US/fundraising/support/, 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 Mass in Motion Food Access Guide, updated regularly, [HERE](#).

FALL LEAF IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



Elm



Maple



Birch



Oak



Ginkgo



Gum Tree



Poplar

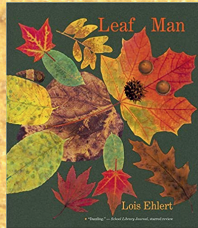


Japanese Maple

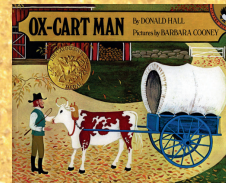


Aspen

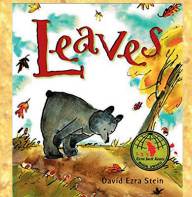
Great Fall Books for Children



Leaf Man by Lois Elhert



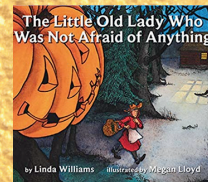
Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall



Leaves by David Ezra Stein



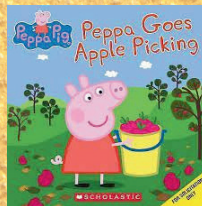
Apples A to Z by Margaret McNamara



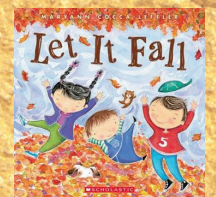
The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams



The Biggest Pumpkin Ever by Steven Kroll



Peppa Pig Goes Apple Picking by Meredith Rusu



Let It Fall by Maryann Cocca-Leffler