

Summer Newsletter

2026



Milton Early Childhood Alliance

a program of
Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc.

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



Contact us at:

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Website:

www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org

Like us on Facebook & Instagram at:
Milton Early Childhood Alliance

Our Summer Programming...always FREE!

StoryWalks®



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 are changed every couple of months and 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!



Summertime Stories

In collaboration with Milton Public Library and Milton Public Schools, join us for fun stories and songs! For families with children birth to six years old. Four different sessions will be held: July 9th and August 6th at 10:00 AM at Cunningham Park, 75 Edge Hill Road, and July 23rd and August 20th at 10:00 AM at Tucker School Playground, 187 Blue Hills Pkwy. Registration is not required, however; you will be asked to sign in upon arrival.

Many thanks to the Friends of Milton Public Library for distributing free gently used books (while supplies last) and to the team of Robinson and Rull of William Raveis Real Estate for distributing free popsicles (while supplies last)!

Kidleidoscope: a Weekly Children's Nature Program



Join us and Ranger Dan for a fun, interactive children's nature program! We'll read a story, enjoy a fun fine motor activity, learn some nature facts, and enjoy a nature walk. This program is held weekly July 10, 17, 24, 31, and August 7, 14, 21 and 28! This Kidleidoscope program features a different nature theme, story, activity, and nature walk on that theme each week. Suitable for children ages 2-6 years old with an adult. Kidleidoscope will begin at 10:00 AM in the Houghton's Pond Visitors Center, 860 Hillside Street in Milton. This is a rain or shine program.

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

Continued: Our Summer Programming...always free!

Kindergarten Days



Kindergarten Days returns from August 23rd through August 29th! During this week, some local business sponsors will offer free gifts or discounts to children entering kindergarten this fall. You don't need to turn anything in to take advantage of the offers - however, your child must be present, entering kindergarten this September, and wearing their yellow "I'm Going to Kindergarten!" t-shirt. As you visit each sponsor, please join us in thanking them for their support of Milton's young school children! A list of participating sponsors will be available via a link on the home page of our website at www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org by mid-August.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten Activity Calendars

Help your child get ready for kindergarten with our Summer Activity Calendars for July and August! Each week day includes one fun activity for children to do with their family, along with a weekly story to be enjoyed together. Calendars can be found on our website at www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org or click on each calendar below.



JULY: <https://tinyurl.com/yuctwrbs>

AUGUST: <https://tinyurl.com/mtthdkc>



Scavenger Hunts at Houghton's Pond

Enjoy some great fun in nature at Houghton's Pond! We've created nature-based scavenger hunts that can be borrowed from the Rise & Thrive Refreshments Concession Stand. Search the grounds, find the items on the list, and have some terrific fun. We've created 3 different Scavenger Hunt versions: for younger children (2 to 5 years), older children (elementary school), and older children (teens) and adults. It's a great way to enjoy the outdoors, get some fresh air, and enjoy a fun activity. Please return the scavenger hunt sheets back at the Rise and Thrive Refreshments Concession Stand when done and maybe give them a little love and thanks by making a purchase!

Milton Public Library Happenings

Check out all the fun children's programming the Library is offering this summer! Stop by to enjoy their Story Walk, located on the outdoor patios, as well as challenges and activities found at the Children's Room desk. 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. Storytimes are also going on the road! Summertime Stories meets on four Thursday mornings at 10am at Tucker School and Cunningham Park, and you can join Library Staff for storytime at the Milton Farmer's Market on select Thursday afternoons at 4pm.

Additional daily summer programs for various ages are: Bead Therapy, Intro to Martial Arts, Art with Sue, Mel O'Drama, Art with Ginny, Cooks & Books, Pop-Up Art School, Reader's Theatre, Edible Book Festival, Toddler Drive-In, and guest performer Mike Bent Magic Show at their Summer Reading Celebration! 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..

Many Thanks to Our Kindergarten T-shirt Sponsors!!



SO many thanks to our 2026 kindergarten t-shirts sponsors for helping us to sprinkle the town with bright yellow t-shirts!

*Please support our kindergarten t-shirt sponsors.
We could not do our work without their generosity!!*

Abby Park Restaurant	Adams Street Barbershop
Adams Street Early Learning Center	Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Milton
Boston Outdoor Preschool Network	Boston Sensory Solutions
Carriage House Schools	Citywide Contracting
Collicot School PTO	Connect Milton
Cunningham School PTO	Discovery Schoolhouse
East Milton Dental	Elizabeth Trofatter Real Estate
Historic NE Eustis Estate Museum	Fitness Unlimited
Forbes House Museum	Freckle Face Yoga
G.F. Driscoll Construction	Glover School PTO
Harte Dental	In Memorium Tracy Neret
Joe Parlavecchio-Edward Jones	Laura Springer Real Estate
Leading Therapy Home	Little Sprouts
Lopez The Florist	Mario Musto Construction
Mel O'Drama School of Acting	Milton Academy
Muscle & Flow	Novara Restaurant
Richard Hunt Landscaping	Robinson & Rull Real Estate
Russian School of Mathematics-Milton	Saint Agatha School
St. Mary of the Hills	Steel & Rye Restaurant
Stella's Breakfast and Lunch	Sunshine School
The Campbell School	The Centre School
The Common Market Restaurants	The Friends of Milton Public Library
The Toy Chest at The Nutshell	Tucker School PTO
Two Pence Market	Unlock Your Potential Tutoring
Village School	William James Gifts

When you see a new kindergartener wearing these shirts, please take a moment to congratulate them on their next big step into kindergarten!

Milton Early Childhood Alliance

Resources and Information

Are you looking for childcare?

If so, we can help! Just email cpcmecasl@verizon.net, let us know the age of your child, and we'll provide you with comprehensive information on all licensed center based programs and family childcare providers in town, in surrounding cities and towns, or via your driving route.

Did You Know?

If you read just 1 book to your child every day, your child will have enjoyed over 1,460 books before entering kindergarten. It's a great gift to give to a child!!



Summer Eats

Free Meals for All Children! Summer Eats is a totally free-of-charge program that provides free meals to all children and teens, under the age of 18, at MA locations during the summer months. NO registration or identification is required - you may go to any location listed on the map. For all information and a map of locations, click here:

<https://projectbread.org/summer-eats-program>

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 online 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 free ASQ online link is:

<https://www.asqonline.com/family/8fd7d7>

Hotlines and Help Centers

Poison Control.....	1-800-222-1222
Stressed or depressed.....	833-773-2445
Mental/substance abuse.....	1-800-662-4357
Suicide Prevention dial.....	988
Life-threatening situations dial.....	911
LGBTQ help.....	1-866-488-7386
or text.....	678-678
Safelink Domestic violence.....	1-877-785-2020
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center.....	1-800-841-8371
MA 211 for other assistance dial.....	211

Food Access Guide for Milton

Located at Town Hall, Lisa Courtney, Milton's Mass in Motion Wellness Coordinator can be found working hard providing Milton residents with access to healthy food and active living. Her updated Food Access Guide can be found [here](#). This guide provides many locations where food can be accessed for **FREE** or at a reduced cost.

Do you have a child going to camp, childcare, or back to school in the fall?

Mabel's Labels Back-to-School Sale is Going on NOW!

25% off sale; shipping is free!!*

Mabel's Labels is a terrific source for your clothing label needs! There are also labels for water bottles, lunch boxes, backpacks, personal items, etc. And, when you make a purchase, you'll be supporting the Milton Early Childhood Alliance!! Simply visit this website: campaigns.mabelslabels.com, type in Milton Early Childhood Alliance, and start shopping. Labels could also be used by those in senior housing, assisted living and/or nursing homes! *25% off select items; sale ends 7/31/26.



Continued: Resources and Information



Kids Bowl Free

Children ages 2 to 18 can enjoy 2 free games of bowling each day all summer! Provided by select bowling centers, this program is designed to give back to the community and provide a safe, secure, and fun way for kids to spend time this summer. The closest participating bowling locations are Boston, Dedham, Brockton, and Hanover. For all details and locations click here:

<https://www.kidsbowlfree.com/>

Milton Summer Concert Series

At the Baron Hugo Gazebo at Town Hall, 525 Canton Ave. on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 PM. In case of inclement weather, please call 617-898-4940 after 5:00 PM for updates.

July 1-Canton American Legion

July 8-Erin's Melody

July 18-Electric Dreams Starring Chuck Palmer

July 22-The Wiley Brothers Band

July 29-Riverside Theatre Works Starring
Mixed Emotions and Mia Bellas

August 5-Neville Sisters

August 12-Rain Date

Brought to you by Milton Parks and Recreation and the
Select Board of Milton



Summer Flicks at the Prudential Center

Lights, camera, ACTION! Enjoy these movies in the South Garden for Prudential Center's annual outdoor movie series, lighting up Saturday nights from July 11th through August 29th. From beloved classics to can't-miss blockbusters, their lineup is thoughtfully curated for movie lovers of all ages and is free to attend.

Music sets the scene starting at 6:30 PM, with films rolling at dusk.

While they encourage you to bring all your friends and enjoy picnicking before the movie starts, they ask that you leave your furry ones at home so everyone can focus on the movie come showtime. Movies are:

July 11 - Bring It On

July 18 - Bend It Like Beckham

July 25 - Hook

August 1 - How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days

August 8 - Lilo & Stitch (Live Action)

August 15 - Crazy Rich Asians

August 22 - Camp Rock

August 29 - Mamma Mia!



For all details and more information, click here:

<https://www.prudentialcenter.com/experiences/events/summer-flicks/>

Home Depot In-Store Kids Workshops

Home Depot is offering free kids workshops! Visit any Home Depot and children will be provided with a DIY kit to make/build a project and take it home. Kids workshops are available on the first Saturday of each month between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Kits are available at each session while supplies last. [Home Depot Free Kids Workshops](#).

Lowe's In-Store Kids Workshops

Lowe's is offering free kids workshops! Visit their website [here](#) and sign up for a free MyLowe's Rewards Kids Club membership. Along with other benefits, Lowe's offers free children's building workshops. With a parent or adult, children can build and keep a new wooden craft each month. Workshops typically are held on the third Saturday of each month. Use the link above for all details.

26th Annual Summer in the City Entertainment Series

A free live music series at the Boston Harbor Hotel. On Tuesdays through Fridays, 6:00 to 10:00 PM, from June 12th to August 28th. Different bands will perform nightly. For more information and the complete lineup, click here:

<https://www.thebostoncalendar.com/events/summer-in-the-city-at-the-harborwalk>



Milton Early Childhood Alliance

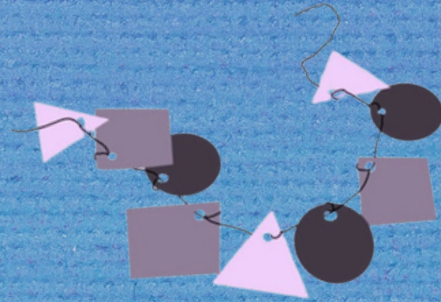
Continued: Resources and Information

GREAT SUMMER ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN Shapes and Colors Scavenger Hunt!

Project Learning Tree's The Shape of Things

Supplies Needed:

colored paper or construction paper
scissors
hole punch
string or pipe cleaner




Instructions:

Creating a shape necklace or bracelet:

- Draw (or have children trace) different shapes (circles, triangles, squares, rectangles, etc.) onto various colored paper so each shape is a different color.
- Write (or help children write) the shape names on each shape cutout and punch a hole in it.
- Thread a piece of string or pipe cleaner through each shape so that it forms a loop fitting easily over a child's head or loosely on their wrist.

Then, head outside to investigate:

- Ask your child "What is your favorite shape?" Challenge children to find it in nature.
- Ask children to find objects the same shape and/or color as the ones on their necklace.
- Play the "I Spy" guessing game: "I spy something shaped like a _____. Can you find it?" Or, "I spy something red. Which shape do you have that is red?" Or, "Can you find something shaped like your yellow square?"
- Hold up each shape and have children name all the outdoor items they can find to match their shape or color.
- This is a game that can be played indoors, outdoors, or even in the car on a long ride. Shapes and colors are everywhere - have fun!

Adapted from:  PROJECT
LEARNING
TREE



Continued: Resources and Information

Splash Pads and Wading Pools

Near Milton:

Olsen Spray Deck, 95 Turtle Pond Parkway, Hyde Park
 Ryan Splash Pad, 350 River Street, Mattapan
 Kincaid Park Splash Pad, 332 Water Street, Quincy
 Taffrail Road Splash Pad, 144 Taffrail Road, Quincy
 Martin/Hilltop Playground, 95 Myrtlebank Street, Dorchester
 Dorothy Curran Water Sprays at Moakley Park, 1005
 Columbia Road, Boston
 Neponset Landing II Spray Deck, 72 Hill Top Street, Boston
 (currently closed due to construction)
 John T. Moynihan Spray Deck, 920 Truman Parkway, Hyde
 Park



In and Around Boston:

Frog Pond Spay Pool, Boston Common, 40 Beacon Street,
 Boston
 Frog Pond Tot Lot, Boston Common, 139 Tremont Street,
 Boston
 Charlesbank Wading Pool, 280 Charles Street, Boston
 Artesani Spray Deck and Wading Pool, 1255 Soldiers Field
 Road, Brighton
 Beaver Brook Spray Deck, 621 Trapelo Road (can also park
 in the lot on Mill Street), Belmont
 Martin's Water Park Garden, 64 Sleeper Street, Boston
 Stonybrook Spray Deck, 2 Lamartine Place, Jamaica Plain
 Splash Fountain, Christian Science Plaza, Belvedere Street
 side, Boston
 Menino Park, 300 First Avenue, Charlestown
 North Point Park Spray Deck, Education Circle, Cambridge
 Rose Kennedy Greenway Chinatown Stream, Kingston Street,
 Boston
 Rose Kennedy Greenway Rings Fountain Aquarium, Atlantic
 Avenue/Milk Street, Boston

DCR Movies in the Park Free Family Flicks



Bring a blanket, lawn chair, and picnic for free movies under the stars. All movies begin at sundown.

Houghton's Pond, 860 Hillside Street, Milton
 8/13-How To Train Your Dragon (live)
 8/20-The Super Mario Galaxy Movie
 8/27-Superman

Castle Island, 2010 William J. Day Blvd., Boston
 7/22-Minecraft Movie
 7/29-Zootopia
 8/5-Lilo & Stitch (live)
 8/12-How To Train Your Dragon (live)
 8/19-The Super Mario Galaxy Movie
 8/26-Superman

The Esplanade, Storrow Drive, Boston
 7/10-Hamilton
 7/17-Minecraft Movie
 7/24-Zootopia
 7/31-Lilo & Stitch (live)
 8/7-How To Train Your Dragon (live)
 8/14-The Super Mario Galaxy Movie
 8/21-Superman

For more information, other locations, or to verify dates and times, click here: [DCR Movies in the Parks | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/dcr-movies-in-the-parks)

Boston Parks Movie Nights



Part of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's ParkArts program, free movies will be held in July and August in various areas of Boston. This series is presented in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports and Entertainment. All shows start at dusk (approximately 8:00 p.m.). Free fresh popcorn provided while supplies last. For more information and a complete list of all movies being shown in each location (Dorchester, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, West Roxbury, Roxbury, South End, Charlestown, Brighton, East Boston, South Boston, Back Bay, and Downtown Boston), click here: [ParkArts Boston 2026 Events](https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-recreation/parkarts-boston-2026-events) and see pages 3 and 4.

Highland Street Foundation August Adventures

Offered annually through the Highland Street Foundation, visit many museums statewide for free! There will be 31 days of 31 different locations to visit. Click here for their calendar of 2026 events: [Highland Street Free August Adventures](https://www.highlandstreet.org/calendar)



Continued: Resources and Information

Movie Nights at MIT Open Space

Enjoy free movies at Kendall/MIT Open Space. The movies are listed as:

7/10 at 6:30 PM-The Fantastic Mr. Fox

7/1 at 6:30 PM-The Muppet Movie

7/24 at 6:30 PM-Space Jam

7/31 at 6:30 PM-It Happened One Night

8/7 at 6:30 PM-Chicken Run

8/14 at 6:30 PM-The Straight Story

8/28 at 6:30 PM-The Wiz

For all information and specific details, click here:

<https://www.openspace.mit.edu/calendar>

Did you know?

The Milton Early Childhood Alliance maintains a comprehensive Milton Parents Resource Manual, filled with a myriad of information for parents and families, on our website. Check it out at www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org.

Looking for more summer reading suggestions?

Here are two links to reading lists, provided to us by *Milton Public Library!*

For books birth through Preschool:

[2026 ALSC birth-preschool suggested reading list](#)

[2025 ALSC birth-preschool suggested reading list](#)

For books Kindergarten to Grade 2:

[2026 K-2 list](#)

[2025 K-2 list](#)



Summertime Book Suggestions



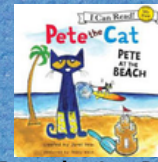
Goldfish on Vacation
by Sally Lloyd-Jones



Summer is Here
by Renée Watson



A House for Hermit Crab
By Eric Carle



Pete the Cat: Pete at the Beach
By James Dean



Sun
By Sam Usher



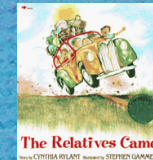
The Night is Yours
By Abdul-Razak Zachariah



The Storm Book
By Charlotte Zolotow



The Hike
By Alison Farrell



The Relatives Came
By Cynthia Rylant



Froggy Learns to Swim
By Jonathan London



Wild Summer
By Sean Taylor & Alex Morss



Blackout
By John Rocco