

Fall Newsletter

2022



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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Milton Early Childhood Alliance

Our Fall Programming...always free!

StoryWalk® at The Trailside Museum - enjoy a colorful fall children's story with your family that follows a leaf as it glides on gusty fall winds. See if you can find the chicken, ducks, geese, turkey, spotted cow, and other items mentioned in this great book! The Trailside Museum's outdoor grounds are open daily 9:00-4:00 and is located at 1904 Canton Avenue in Milton.

StoryWalk® at Houghton's Pond - enjoy this terrific children's story with your family about three baby owls who thought they lost their Mom! This warm-hearted story is posted around the playground in English, French, and Spanish. Houghton's Pond is open daily from dawn to dusk and located at 860 Hillside Street in Milton.

StoryWalk® at Tucker Elementary School - enjoy an amazing children's story with your family and find out how, after thousands of miles and the help from international news media outlets, a lost family pet finds his way home! This true story is posted in English, French and Spanish. Tucker School is available to the public when school is NOT in session and is located at 187 Blue Hills Parkway in Milton.

***Many thanks to the Milton Cultural Council for
their support of the Houghton's Pond and Tucker School StoryWalks®!***

Many thanks to our translators: French translation by Marianne LeBigot, French Reading Specialist and Spanish translation by Heydi Cambria, Spanish teacher at Milton Public Schools and Yalennys Valezquez owner of Little Spanish Garden Bilingual Childcare 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!

Stories and Friends Meet Up #1: Signs of Fall!

Meet and connect with other families with young children and enjoy some fall fun! We'll meet at the Visitor's Center at **Houghton's Pond**, enjoy some stories, songs, and a fun hands-on 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. A free at-home learning extension activity will be distributed to the first 35 children who sign in that morning. This program will meet on Saturday, October 22nd, 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!



Continued: Our Fall Programming...always free!

"I Can Do It!" Helping Your Child Feel the Power of Independence

This parent workshop, for families with children 2.5 to 4 years old, will explore goals for supporting independence in their child and discuss ways to help children feel capable, competent, and successful. We will meet from the comfort of your home virtually, via Zoom, on Thursday, December 1st at 7:00 PM. Registration will be required to receive the Zoom link and passcode. The registration link is: <https://forms.gle/o3cANreTg5znCQmFA>.

Many thanks to the Milton Junior Woman's Club for their generous support of this program!

Stories and Friends Meet Up #2: Getting Ready for Winter!

Meet and connect with other families with young children and have some fun! We'll meet at the entrance to the **Trailside Museum**, enjoy some stories, sing some songs, participate in fun activities and make some new friends! We'll also be reading the StoryWalk® posted on the grounds and learn about how animals prepare for winter. Registration is not required; however, you will need to sign in upon arrival. A free at-home learning extension activity will be distributed to the first 35 children who sign in. This program will meet on Saturday, November 5th, at 10:30 AM at the entrance to the Trailside Museum at 1904 Canton Avenue in Milton.

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

Watch for our Upcoming Playgroups Registrations!

Our popular, virtual, winter playgroup series for children 2 1/2 to 4 years old will return in January and February. Watch for registration early to mid-December. Learning at Home Extension kits will be provided to enhance each weekly session. This is a fun program with lots of songs, movement, finger-play, and stories and will be held from the comfort of your home, so winter weather does not interfere with the weekly sessions!

Our long-running and highly anticipated Learning Through Play Preschool Playgroup series will return in March and April. Watch for further details and registration in early February. Professor Dotty Alexander will be heading up the team once again. We'll be meeting on Saturday mornings at Discovery Schoolhouse for fun learning through play. Weekly At Home Learning Extension Activity bags will be distributed weekly. Completion of the Ages & Stages Questionnaire will be required. ***This Playgroup series is funded through the Milton Hospital Community Health Grant.***

Milton Public Library

Check out all of the fun children's programming the Library is offering this Fall! 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, and Small Wonders for ages 0 to 5 on Wednesdays at 10:00 or 10:45 AM. Additional programs being offered for various ages are: SPUB Club, Historic New England: All about Herbs, Take and Make Crafts, Tales from the Story Hat, Reading Dogs, Graphic Novel Book Club, Mel O'Drama, Cooks & Books, 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.

Also, have you heard? The Milton Public Library's Children's Room now has Dial-A-Story! Call 617-915-1915 at any time to listen to picture books, a joke, and first chapters of middle grade and teen books. Stories are read to you by MPL librarians and updated every month!

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.

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.

Do you have a "Covid Baby"? Check to see if they are 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>.

Many thanks to our Kindergarten Days Sponsors!

Dental 1, Elliott Physical Therapy, The Fruit Center Marketplace, Harte Dental, Historic New England Eustis Estate, The Ice Creamsmith, Ichiro Sushi, Mackie's Barbershop, Milton Public Library, Mr. Chan's, Starbuck's, and The Toy Chest at the Nutshell. Please help us thank them for their generosity!

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

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

Interfaith Social Services

call 617-773-6203 x19

www.interfaithsocialservices.org/food/

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

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 this website:

https://mabelslabels.com/en_US/fundraising/support/, type in Milton Early Childhood Alliance, and start shopping. Shipping is free!!

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!

7 Corn Mazes* Within a 2 Hour Drive (adapted from The Boston Calendar)

- Amazing Corn Maze at Hanson's Farm Framingham, MA
<https://www.hansonsfarmframingham.com>
- Marini Farm Corn Maze Ipswich, MA
<https://www.marinifarm.com/corn-maze2>
- Sauchuk's Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch Plympton MA
<https://www.sauchukmaze.com/>
- Davis Mega Maze Sterling, MA
<https://davismegamaze.com/mega-maze/>
- Escobar Farm Corn Maze Portsmouth, RI
<http://escobarfarm.com/the-maze/>
- Mike's Maze Sunderland, MA
<https://mikesmaze.com/>
- The Apple Place Corn Maze East Longmeadow, MA
<https://www.theappleplace.net/corn-maze>

****May have entrance fees.***

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!



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!!

Emotional Wellbeing After Baby

Did you recently have a baby and are struggling with changes in your sleep pattern, difficulty concentrating, changes in your appetite, weepiness or sadness, or anger/rage?

First Connections through JRI is offering a free online, supportive, non-judgmental, confidential group to help. The group meets every Thursday, 9:30-11:00 via Zoom. Email Heather O'Brien, LICSW, at hobrien@jri.org for more information and the Zoom link.

In-home Vaccinations Available

In-home COVID-19 vaccinations are available for anyone who has difficulty getting to or using a community vaccination location, including children 6 months to 17 years old, through mass.gov. To schedule an appointment, call 833-983-0485 or visit patientportalma.com.

For more information, visit mass.gov and search for COVID-19 In-Home Vaccination Program.

In Crisis? Dial 988

The Federal Communications Commission has formally designated 988 as a nationwide 3-digit number for mental health crisis and suicide prevention services. If you, or someone you know, is in crisis: **Dial:** 988; **Text:** 988; **Chat:** 988lifeline.org.

Trained counselors are there to help!

Milton now has a Community Health Social Worker! Working for the Town of Milton's Health Department, Anne Grossman is looking forward to connecting and working with the community! She can be reached at 617-898-4982.

Is Your Child's Car Seat Safe or Fake?

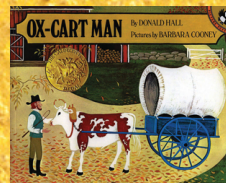
The MA Dept. of Public Health's Injury Prevention and Control program is raising awareness around a concerning trend that fake child car seats (car seats that don't meet the federal safety standards) are being sold at affordable prices on Amazon and other on-line retailers. Children's Hospital of Oregon created a detailed handout on how to spot a fake car seat. Use this link to help you determine if the car seat your child is using is safe and meets federal safety standards:

tinyurl.com/mr2auhwu

Great Fall Books for Children



Leaf Man by Lois Elhert



Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall



Leaves by David Ezra Stein



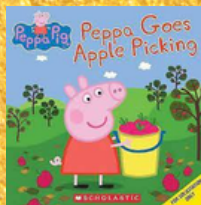
Apples A to Z by Margaret McNamara



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



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