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**Serving families with children birth to 8 years old.**

**We are here to help!**

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**“Like” us on Facebook:**

Milton Early Childhood Alliance

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# Milton Early Childhood Alliance

**Serving Milton's Families with Children**



**Spring, 2018**

## Our Upcoming Events and Activities...FREE to all

**Story Walks at Trailside Museum and Houghton's Pond** — Our Story Walks, located at the Trailside Museum and Houghton's Pond, have returned! A new story will be posted every five to six weeks at the Trailside Museum from the beginning of April through the end of November. Seasonal stories will be posted at Houghton's Pond. Stories can be enjoyed by children both young and old. Bring some friends, read a story, have a picnic, take a hike. Remember to dress for the weather as this is an outdoor experience. Registration is not required. Co-sponsored with the MA Audubon and the MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation.

**Learning Through Play Toddler and Preschool Play Group** — Our Learning Through Play Toddler and Preschool Play Group series returns! A facilitator led, language and literacy play group for moms, dads, and grandparents **with their children** ages 2 to 4 will be held on Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:00 AM, March 29 to May 3, 2018, at Discovery Schoolhouse, 101 Blue Hills Parkway in Milton. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** by emailing cpcmecasld@verizon.net or calling 617-696-2262. Milton residents will be prioritized. For more information, visit our website. Co-sponsored with Curry College.

**STEM Free Play Fridays at Milton Public Library** — will continue every other Friday in their Children's Story Hour Room from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Come enjoy some terrific parent and child activities while learning about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Activities are appropriate for children ages three to six years old **WITH** their parent, guardian or caregiver. There will be different activities each visit. Registration is not required, however, you will be required to sign-in upon arrival. STEM Free Play Fridays will continue every other week through the summer and fall. See what's coming up: April 13th: What Can You Build?; April 27th: Does It Stick?; May 11th: How Does It Go?; May 25th: Fine Motor Skills; June 8th: How Much Does it Weigh?; June 22nd: What Do You See? Co-sponsored with Milton Public Library.

**Fun On The Farm!** — Join us for a fun, interactive learning experience on a working farm. Take a guided tour, learn how a farm works, search for critters that live on a farm, enjoy a story and participate in a fun activity. For families with children 3 to 10 years old. Parents/caregivers are expected to stay and supervise their child at all times. Three April School Vacation Week dates and locations are available. Programs run from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM as follows: April 19th at Brookwood Community Farm at the Bradley Estate on 2468 Washington St. in Canton, April 20th at Brookwood Community Farm on 11 Blue Hill River Rd. in Canton, and April 21st at Brookwood Community Farm at the Eustis Estate on 1424 Canton Ave. in Milton. Co-sponsored with Brookwood Community Farm.

**More Events and Activities...on the next page!**



**Parent Cafés: Getting Ready for Kindergarten** — Will your child be attending kindergarten in the fall? Do you wonder if your child is ready academically, socially, or emotionally? Would you like to learn what you can do to make the transition easier for your child and your family? Then, a free Parent Café is for you! This workshop is open to all Milton families; your child will not need to attend Milton Public Schools. Choose from one of the two sessions available, register and attend. Session 1 will meet Tuesday, May 1st from 9:00-10:00 AM at Cunningham Hall. Session 2 will meet Wednesday, May 2nd from 5:00-6:00 PM at Tucker Elementary School. Please register by emailing [cpcmecasld@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasld@verizon.net) or calling 617-696-2262. Registration is not required, but is preferred so we may have an accurate count for handouts. Co-sponsored with Milton Public Schools and Cunningham Hall.

**We're Having A Launch Party!** — A 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Launch Party!! Bring your baby, toddler, or preschooler to the Milton Public Library on Saturday, May 5th from 10:00-10:30 AM. We'll explain how this incredibly important reading program works and how we will help you and your child reach the goal. We will even help you sign-up on the spot. Everyone who signs up receives a prize! Ms. Jen and Ms. Sara will be there to read stories that will count toward your goal! Registration is not required; just show up for some reading and singing fun! Co-sponsored with Milton Public Library, the Friends of the Milton Public Library and the Milton Cultural Council.

**Children's Concert** — On June 7th, our annual Children's Concert will be held at Baron Hugo Gazebo at Milton's Town Hall from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Join us for toe-tappin', banjo rockin', guitar groovin' music, singing, and fun for all ages! Wear your bright yellow t-shirt and meet other children entering kindergarten in the fall. Bring a blanket, picnic, and your friends for an evening of fun! Registration is not required. If it looks like rain, call 617-696-2262 after 4:00 PM. We'll leave a message if we've postponed the Concert until June 21st. Co-sponsored with the Town of Milton's Parks and Recreation Dept.

How do you hear about our events and activities? "Like" us on Facebook at  
**Milton Early Childhood Alliance**  
 OR join our mailing list by emailing [cpcmecasld@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasld@verizon.net).



Are you recording the books read to your child for 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten? Remember, all of the stories read at our programming counts. Keep this in mind and the books will add up fast! Reading and tracking 1,000 books read to your child may sound daunting, but it's not. Books read during playgroups, at the Library, in preschool programs, and at home all count. And, if you read the same book to your child three times just so they would go to sleep, it counts three times! So, if you are keeping track, keep on going! And, if you are not yet doing so, join us at our Launch Party to find out what it's all about. This is an easy way to help your child establish strong early literacy skills and become great readers. See our Launch Party information above.

### **Many thanks to our supporters this past winter!!**

*Discovery Schoolhouse, Inc., First Congregational Church, Milton Public Library, Adams Street Early Learning Center, Carriage House Schools, Curry Early Childhood Center, Milton Area Family Child Care Assoc., Sunshine School, The Campbell School, The Centre School, The Children's Center at Milton Academy, Village School, Collicot PTO, Cunningham PTO, Glover PTO, Tucker PTO, the Friends of Milton Public Library, The Toy Chest at The Nutshell, Eustis Estate Museum, Milton Academy, and the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation.*



All of our family activities and events support **Brain Building in Progress**. By participating in our programming, you are building the brains of our future. That's why you see this sign on all of our materials!



**Milton Early Childhood Alliance**

Do you have a child who will be entering kindergarten in the fall? Now is the time to start thinking about, and preparing for, that big step. Keep in mind that kindergarten teachers are ready for your child. But, there are still some things you can work on to help make your child's transition into kindergarten a bit smoother. If you practice during the summer months with your child, it may be easier in the fall for your child to acclimate to his or her new surroundings. Give some of these tips a try:

- Make sure your child knows their first and last name (and maybe even their address and phone number).
- Have them practice how to put on their coat, jacket, boots, and hat.
- Practice zipping, buttoning, and snapping.
- Have them use their fine motor skills a bit more during the summer months: play with Play-Doh®, draw with pencils, lace some cards, string a pile of beads, build sand castles at the beach, build a tall building with Legos®, etc.
- Play games that will help them learn to take turns.
- Read to your child often so they can practice their sitting and listening skills. As school nears, read books about kindergarten (some popular titles are: *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten*, *Froggy Goes to School*, *Countdown to Kindergarten*, *Look Out Kindergarten Here I Come*, *Welcome to Kindergarten*). The Milton Public Library will have books on display available for you to check out as kindergarten nears.
- Let your child help with the laundry. There are many skills to be practiced and learned, like colors, sorting, counting, identifying, and stacking.
- Find opportunities to connect with other children also going to kindergarten in the fall. You can attend our Children's Concert on June 7th at 6:00 PM, Baron Hugo Gazebo, Milton Town Hall, make play dates with families you know in the neighborhood who have children taking this same big step in September, and watch for word from the school your child will be attending in the fall as they usually will hold a special event prior to the start of school.
- Make sure to pick up our bright yellow, "I'm Going to Kindergarten", t-shirt at your child's Milton Public School screening in May.
- Start in August having your child go to bed earlier and wake up when they will need to be up for school.
- Let them help you label their personal items they'll be bringing to school (backpack, lunchbox, jacket, etc.).
- Visit the playground at the school they will attend to help them feel more comfortable with the building and grounds.
- Enjoy our Kindergarten Days event during the last week in August by visiting specific establishments in town and receiving free items or discounts to celebrate your child's big step. (Further information will be available soon.)
- Watch our video "So, You're Going to Kindergarten!" at <http://vimeo.com/47896597> created in collaboration with Milton Public Schools and Milton Access TV. It will help answer many questions for you and your child.
- Visit the Countdown to Kindergarten exhibit at the Boston Children's Museum. For more information, visit [www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org](http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org).
- Check out these fun Brain Building in Progress kindergarten readiness activities to do with your child. They can be found on our website at [www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org](http://www.miltonearlychildhoodalliance.org); click on "Countdown to Kindergarten".
- And, finally, relax...because if you are relaxed and calm, your child will be as well!



Are you looking for child care or a preschool program for your child? We can help! Give us a call at 617-696-2262 or send us an email at [cpcmecasld@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasld@verizon.net). We can help you explore options that will best fit the needs of your family. Or, visit our website for a complete listing of child care and preschool programs in Milton along with contact information for the Milton Area Family Child Care Association.



With the **Ages & Stages Questionnaire**, we can help you learn about your child's growth and development, know what to look for and expect, and determine if your child is developing on target for their age. We will provide you with a free, age appropriate, questionnaire for you to complete. Return it to us for scoring and we will let you know if your child is on target for their age. We will also provide you with ideas and fun activities to encourage your child's future development. If interested, give us a call at 617-696-2262 or email [cpcmecasld@verizon.net](mailto:cpcmecasld@verizon.net).

