

MILFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Infant and Toddler Times

JUDY LOBDELL, EDITOR

December 2017

Dates to Remember

November

23rd-24th.
Thanksgiving break
Center closed.



HAPPY
THANKS
GIVING

December

2nd. Holiday Concert
(see page 3)

15th. Last day of
playgroup

25th.-29th. Holiday
break. Center closed.

The Milford Family
Resource Center
@Mathewson School
466 West River Street
Milford, CT 06461
(203)783-3626
mfrc@milforded.org

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Toy Safety Tips For The Holiday Season



When buying gifts for children, don't just buy whatever is on their wish list. Do some research first. That way, the gifts can be age-appropriate and safe. Toy-related injuries are an all too common occurrence. In 2009, an estimated 250,100 children under age 15 were sent to the hospital for toy-related injuries, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. And these injuries are on the rise. "Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child," says Dr. H. Garry Gardner, chair of the Council on Injury, Violence & Poison Prevention at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). "Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children." The AAP is offering these tips to help parents make safe consumer choices for their children:

- Make sure the toy is specified for the age of your child. Government regulations on toy diameter and length will prevent your baby or toddler from choking. Never leave a baby unattended with toys and games containing small parts.
- Toys that plug into an electrical outlet are a no-no for the under 10 set. Prevent burns and electrical shocks by buying battery-operated toys for younger kids. Make sure that the battery is in a secured compartment that cannot be accessed by the child.
- Buttons, batteries, and magnets pose a serious health risk when swallowed, causing stomach and intestinal problems and possible death. Call your pediatrician or other health care provider immediately if your child swallows one of these items.
- Store toys in a designated location, such as on a shelf or in a toy chest, and keep older kids' toys away from young children.
- Read instructions carefully on a toy before allowing your child to play with it.
- Don't leave children unattended with balloons. Uninflated or broken balloons are a choking hazard for children under 8.
- Watch out for pull toys with strings more than 12 inches in length. They could be a strangulation hazard for babies. Of course, choosing safe toys is only half the battle. You also have to pick one they will like. "When it comes to toys, and ultimately, learning, active play always wins out over passive entertainment like TV," says Dr. Gardner. For a baby, anything that is eye-catching or makes noise is perfect. For an older child, whether it's a board game, a magazine subscription, or the latest Justin Bieber record, something that will sustain his or her interest will make a meaningful gift. For more gift-giving ideas and safety tips, visit the AAP's website for parents, www.healthychildren.org. A little research can go a long way in making sure your holidays are happy and healthy.



Did you know that when you shop at smile.amazon.com by choosing a charity, such as 12345 Kids Count of Milford Inc, your purchases can generate a donation by Amazon of 0.5% to the organization? There is no cost to the purchaser (but of course it is not tax deductible) and is a convenient way to help your favorite organization bring some smiles to your local community. So as you are heading into the holiday season and shopping on Amazon remember to put smile.amazon.com into the url and choose a charity.





Grateful for Grandparents



Upcoming and ongoing events at the
Milford Public Library
Children's Department
203-783-3312; milfordlibrary.org



PRESCHOOL STORYTIME: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:30am. Come to the library and enjoy stories, a craft and new friends. For ages 3 and up with a caregiver.

No preschool storytime the week of December 25.

TODDLER TIME Every Thursday at 10am and 11am Let's all share fingerplays, songs and stories together. Come and meet new friends at the library! For ages 2 and under with a caregiver.

MUSIC TOGETHER Thursday November 30 at 6:15pm. Ages 0-5. This is an opportunity for caregivers and children to share music, instruments and movement together. Children of all abilities are welcome. Space is limited. Registration required.

SNOWY CRAFTERNOON: WINTER CHALLENGE Wednesday December 27 from 2pm - 3:30 pm. Stop by for all kinds of snowy fun. Reindeer Races! Ice Rescue! and more.

LINCOLN CENTER AT THE MOVIES presents **GEORGE BALANCHINE'S, THE NUTCRACKER BALLET**, Thursday December 28 at 2pm Join us for a free all ages viewing of this beloved New York City Ballet holiday tradition. Originally recorded in 2011 at the Koch Theater at Lincoln Center.

NEW YEARS NOISEMAKERS Friday December 29 at 1:30pm Let's make some noisemakers and party favors so you're all ready to ring in the New Year! We'll test them out with a practice New Year's countdown.





LIVE IN CONCERT
"A CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY JOURNEY"
featuring:



Hosted by the Milford Family Resource Center
Saturday, December 2nd, 2017 at
Mathewson Elementary School
466 West River Street Milford, CT

Schedule of Events:

10:00 - 11:00 AM. A VISIT FROM SANTA, FACE PAINTING, and
A READING CORNER.

11:00 - Noon. **THE LEARNING STATION** Concert

Noon - 1:00 PM. A VISIT FROM SANTA, FACE PAINTING,
A READING CORNER, and BAKE SALE
TICKETS: **\$5.00**

No charge for children under two.
Call 783-3626 or EMAIL the Milford Family Resource Center
at MFRC@MILFORD.ORG

Milford Salvation Army Service Unit
@Milford Family Resource Center
466 West River Street
Milford, Connecticut 06461
203-783-3627

The Milford Salvation Service Unit Special Appeal

As we approach the Holiday season, it is so heartening to see how generous the Milford community is to families with young children, adults and seniors living alone who are in need of food for the holidays. Individuals, businesses, schools and organizations generously contribute to Boy Scout Food Drive that help hundreds at Thanksgiving. Non-profit groups, such as Women's Inc., local churches, companies and individuals help with dinner on Christmas Day, as well.

Sadly, we at the Milford Salvation Army Service Unit, receive requests each week for food gift cards. Many of the requests are from working families who are not eligible for the Connecticut Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; or if they do have SNAP, run out of food by the end of each month (particularly if the family has growing children). Some of the families access the Milford Food Bank or other food banks within the community. However, all families need eggs, milk, margarine, fresh vegetables, fruit and bread.

It is with knowing that many of Milford families are in need of support each month, we are asking members of the Milford community to contribute a gift card to the Milford Salvation Service Unit to help us help the families beyond holiday time.

You may mail or drop off a gift card to Stop & Shop or Shop Rite to the address above. Please indicate your name and contact information so that we can acknowledge your kind assistance.

Thank you,

Margaret E. Kelly, Service Unit Chair, Milford Family Resource Center
Lesley Darling, Service Coordinator, Milford Health Department
Joan Canavan, Treasurer
Jean Kaluzinski, Milford Senior Center
Bob Lessard, St. Mary's Parish Outreach Committee



All members of the Service Unit are volunteers.



Breakfast with **SANTA!**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD
9:00 AM - NOON

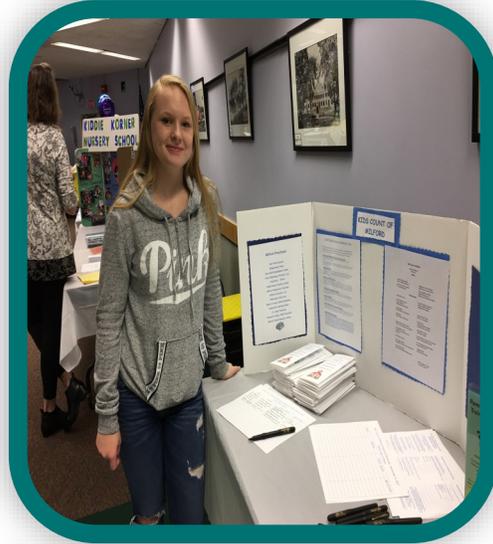
185 Plains Road
Milford Place Corporate Center - Cafe

Pancakes | Crafts | Face Painting | Caroling
\$5/person



Total  Mortgage

Preschool Showcase at the Milford Public Library, November 4, 2017





Christmas Food Drive in Milford

**The Connecticut Epilepsy Advocate and the
United Way of Milford will hold a
Christmas Food Drive**

Non-perishable/canned goods can be dropped off
from
Monday, December 4th thru Friday, December 15th
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Drop off locations:

United Way of Milford - 20 Evergreen Avenue
&
The Milford Senior Center - 9 Jepson Drive
For more information please call United Way of Mil-
ford (203) 874-6791.



Keeping
MILFORD
Warm

5TH Annual Holiday Benefit and Silent Auction
Sponsored by The Milford Kiwanis Club

\$60.00 per person

Dinner, 2 Hour open bar, silent auction,
Live auction, LIVE MUSIC , Door prizes & much more

www.keepingmilfordwarm.com

LETS HELP OUR CITY STAY WARM THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

December 9th 2017

6:30PM - 11:00PM

Grassy Hill Country Club
441 Clark Lane
Milford, CT 06460

