

MILFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Infant and Toddler Times

JUDY LOBDELL, EDITOR

February 2019


Dates to Remember


February

14th.  Happy Valentines Day

15th.– 18th. Winter Break. Center closed.


March

1st. Celebrate Read Across America (see p.3) 

10th. DST ends. Time to spring forward. 

17th. Happy St. Patrick's Day 

20th. Happy Spring 

February is National Children's Dental Health Month 

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

Milford Family Resource Center Staff:
Program Manager:
Peggy Kelly
Parent Educators:
Kathy Aspinwall
Judy Lobdell
Anne Mundy

PLAYDOUGH POWER



*Squishing, rolling, sculpting, molding . . . young children love to play with playdough. Add some props from around the home and playdough play becomes a powerful way to support your child's learning. This simple preschool staple lets children use their imaginations and strengthen the small muscles in their fingers—the same muscles they will one day use to hold a pencil and write. Using playdough with you, a friend, or siblings supports your child's social skills such as sharing, taking turns, and enjoying being with other people. Playdough also encourages children's language and literacy, science, and math skills—all at the same time!

Around-the-House Playdough Props

Birthday candles

Blocks

Bottle caps

Cookie cutters

Combs

Garlic press (be prepared to give it up forever)

Large buttons and other objects that can be pressed into the playdough to make a design

Feathers

Leaves, twigs, pebbles

Plastic knives, forks, and spoons

Rolling pin or bottle

Small toy people and animals

Straws

String or shoelaces

Tea strainer

Toothpicks (only for older children)

What children learn

Playdough play at home or school supports development and learning in many areas. When children use playdough, they explore ideas and try different approaches until they find one that works. They compare and contrast objects ("Mine's a fat pancake and yours is skinny"), actions ("No, don't cut it! Scrape it, like this"), and experiences ("We're not making a snake—we're making a road"). In their experimenting, children come up with their own ideas, satisfy their curiosity, and analyze and solve problems. These are all skills that help children learn and succeed in school.

Social and emotional development

Creating with playdough lets children feel competent ("I'm good at rolling the dough") and proud of their accomplishments ("Hey, I made a dog"). Pounding, flattening, and squeezing are healthy and safe outlets for extra energy. They can also help children cope with strong feelings. When children seem stressed or angry, get out the playdough and props!

During playdough time at school, children talk about what they're making and how. Re-create this atmosphere at home by inviting siblings or playmates and including (yourself in the play. Make comments about their work ("You cut it again"). Ask

*(Excerpted from NAEYC Newsletter) Continued on page 2

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questions so children can describe and think about what they are doing ("What does this do?"). Connect their play to the real world ("Can you make a red tomato? A green one might not be ripe"). Teach cooperation ("I can help you make your car"), and observe and compare actions ("I'm rolling my dough too"). Interactions like these contribute to development and learning, helping to prepare children for success in school and in life.

Creativity and imagination

With playdough, young children express their ideas through art and make-believe play. At the same time, they learn *symbolic thinking* by pretending that the playdough is something else ("That thing with the antlers is a moose").

Older preschoolers—say, 4- or 5-year-olds—often make detailed playdough creations. With one or more friends, they may imagine themselves to be construction workers building a highway, prehistoric hunters pursuing a woolly mammoth, or pastry chefs baking and selling cookies, cupcakes, and donuts at a bakery. You can join in their pretend play too!

Language and literacy

Through playdough play at home, children practice listening to and talking with friends, siblings, and adults (you!). Materials like playdough help children build their vocabulary as they explain what they are doing. For example, when a child exclaims, "Chop!" as she brings down the plastic knife, she uses just the right word to describe her action.

Children use language to invent stories about their playdough creations. You may notice your child using facts or ideas from books you've read together. Children also refer to things they did or saw in their everyday lives ("This is a burrito like we had at lunch").

When the two of you make a batch of playdough together, your child learns about print and why people write. Following the recipe helps him connect written and spoken words and learn that writing can be used for different purposes. In this case, the writing explains how to make playdough. Encourage him to roll snakes and use them to form letters. Discuss action words like *pound* and *slice* and descriptive words like *mushy* and *sticky*. These types of experiences help children learn new words and communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively—skills they will need when they learn to read and write in the primary grades.

Science

Young children learn about science through hands-on experiences. They learn by observing, thinking, and talking about how materials feel and how they change. You can encourage scientific thinking. Provide sawdust or sand to add to the playdough and then talk about how this new kind of dough looks and feels. Introduce words like *texture*, *grainy*, *smooth*, and *lumpy*.

Your child might declare, "I'm making this flat!" as she pushes down on playdough with the palm of her hand. Or she may say, "I'm making it soft," as she adds water to dry playdough to make it more pliable. When you ask, "What do you think would happen if we added too much water?" you are helping her understand the scientific concept of *cause and effect*.

Math

Measure and count while you make a batch of playdough together. Your child can learn about measurement and numbers by filling the cup and comparing the size of teaspoons and tablespoons, and about counting as he adds the ingredients.

Children note changes in shape and size as they comment on, compare, and contrast the objects they make ("I made a triangle" and "Mine is a tiny ball and yours is big"). Others notice who has more or less playdough. Ask your child to count how many pieces she is making or to arrange her creations by size or color. Encourage mathematical thinking by asking, "What shape is that?" "Which snake is longer?" or "How many pieces do you have now?"

These play experiences encourage children to practice counting, learn about shapes (geometry) and how they relate to each other (spatial sense), and practice sorting and classifying. Such mathematical ways of thinking prepare children for learning more complex math concepts in the coming years.

Physical development

While poking, rolling, and squishing playdough, children develop the small muscles in their fingers and hands. They use hands, fingers, and tools to pound, push, poke, shape, flatten, roll, cut, and scrape. Through these manipulations, children develop eye-hand coordination, the ability to match hand movement with eye movement. They also gain strength and improve dexterity in their hands and fingers, critical areas of physical development for writing, drawing, and other purposes.

Playdough is a powerful learning tool for many reasons. And when you play with playdough at home with your children, you'll discover the most important reason of all: it's just plain fun!

(excerpted from the NAEYC newsletter blog)





www.nea.org/readacross



Celebrate Read Across America Observed Friday March 1, 2019

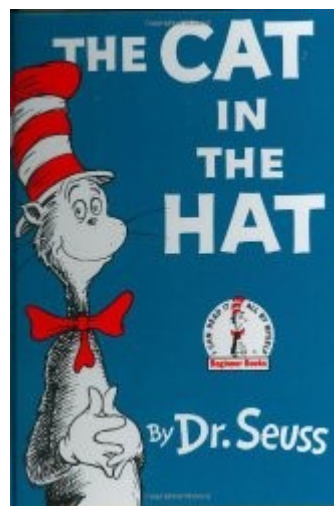
Grab your hat and read with the cat". The National Education Association (NEA) "calls for all children to be reading in the company of a caring adult". You can visit their website at www.nea.org/readacross/ for more information.

You're never too old, too wacky, too wild,
To pick up a book and read with a child.
You're never too busy, too cool, or too hot,
To pick up a book and share what you've got.

In schools and communities,
Let's gather around,
Let's pick up a book,
Let's pass it around.

There are kids all around you,
Kids who will need
Someone to hug,
Someone to read.

Come join us March 2nd
Your own special way
And make this America's
Read to Kids Day.



*"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild,
to pick up a book and read with a child."*

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION NEWS

Registration Link Will Open on Monday, Feb. 11th: As you may remember, we promised to fill you in on any information connected to **Kindergarten Registration** – and here is some news for you.

The online registration process will, once again, be the sole way to register a child for Kindergarten (for the Fall 2019). **The online registration link will open on Monday, February 11th.** All of the instructions on how to complete this process will be there, along with an online appointment calendar for parents and their Kindergarten-bound children to visit the school and bring original documents for authentication.

Our advice at this point is to go onto the **Student Registration** section of the district website (www.milforded.org) **on Feb. 11th** and begin the process as early as possible. Many thanks!





Some of our younger participants at the Milford Family Resource, and...



some of our older participants.



The Ready to Learn class at Live Oaks school all dressed up to celebrate the 100th Day of school!



Amazing how 100 days of school can age one...staff included!

*Kids Count of Milford
invites you to attend the
Annual Legislative Breakfast*

Milford Yacht Club

Wednesday, April 10, 2018

8:00 to 10:00 am

Sponsored by:

Kids Count of Milford

For further information contact Peggy Kelly at 203 783-3626 or email at pkelly@milforded.org

Kiddie Korner Nursery School

**26 Joanne Drive
Milford, CT 06460**

**Director: Peggy Bruno
Phone: (203) 874-7703**

**pegbruno@optonline.net
www.kiddiekorners.com**

**A warm and loving
environment
for your preschooler**

Est. 1983

Kiddie Korner Nursery School offers a multi-age class of 3's and 4's. Classes meet on MWF for 4 hours, 9:15 to 1:15 and the cost is \$360 per month.

And, there are still openings for the fall program!

For further information you can call or email at the above contact information.



Save the Date:

Kids Count of Milford's Harborlight Happening

Thursday, May 9, 2019

6:00 to 9:30 pm

Milford Yacht Club

Cocktails, Dinner, Dessert

Silent and Live Auction and so much more!

\$55.00 per person

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 when you are shopping on Amazon remember to put smile.amazon.com into the url and choose a charity.



The Milford Bank Foundation awarded funds to local non profit agencies at a gathering on January 24, 2019 at the Milford Bank. Pictured above are some of the recipients agencies.

Milford Redevelopment & Housing Partnership
Important Announcement
Regarding Opening of Senior/Disabled Waiting List On:
Thursday, February 7, 2019

The Milford Redevelopment & Housing Partnership (MRHP) hereby announces it will be accepting pre-applications **by-mail only** for its' Senior*/Disabled public housing program which consists of efficiencies (studios) and 1 bedroom units.

Applicants must be at least 50 years old or have a handicapping condition as described in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Income limits for those applying are from \$20,351 to \$50,350/yr. for one (1) person family, and from \$23,251 to \$57,550/yr. for a two (2) person family.

The pre-application will be printed in the "New Haven Register", "Connecticut Post" and the "Milford Mirror" on Thursday February 7, 2019. Pre-applications will also be available for pick-up as of that date at the MRHP office located at 75 DeMaio Drive in Milford, and at the Milford Senior Center at 9 Jepson Drive in Milford.

Pre-applications must be mailed to the following address ONLY, and **postmarked no later than 12:00 midnight, Thursday, March 7, 2019.**

Milford Redevelopment & Housing Partnership
P.O. Box 512
Milford, CT 06460-0512

Faxed and hand delivered pre-applications will **not** be accepted. Persons with disabilities who need assistance in completing the pre-application may come to the MRHP office or may call the MRHP office at (203) 877-3223. If you have a hearing impairment, you may call 711. (*Senior is defined as 62 and over, "Near Elderly" is defined as age 50 to 61.)

350 pre-applications will be randomly drawn from those submitted on March 19, 2019 at 2:00 p.m., in the Community Room at 75 DeMaio Drive, and numbered sequentially. *Applicant's need not be present.* The drawn pre-applications will form the waiting list, which will be structured in accordance with the Admissions & Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) of the MRHP. Only those applicants drawn will be notified.

NOTICE: MRHP has a smoke free policy. Smoking is prohibited in the apartments and common areas of all our properties. MRHP facilities are protected by a video surveillance system/ CCTV for the safety and security of our residents.

The MRHP is an Equal Housing provider and does not discriminate on the basis race, color, national origin, sex, religion, actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, disability, age, marital status, lawful source of income, gender identity or expression, or veteran. If you have questions please call the MRHP at (203) 877-3223, X 11.





**IRS CERTIFIED
VOLUNTEERS & THREE
CONVENIENT LOCATIONS**

VITA

Do you need your taxes
done easily, accurately,
fast and FREE?

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

Milford Senior Center: 9 Jepson Drive, Milford

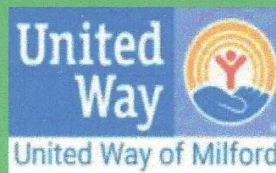
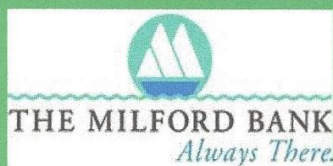
Schedule an appointment online today by clicking this link:

www.211CT.ORG/TAXHELP

OR schedule via phone: call 211 & follow the prompts (option 3 & option 6)

For assistance & information, contact TEAM at (203) 736-5420 ext. 1206

SPONSORS



The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers direct deposit to your private account(s), however we do not offer instant refunds. All services for tax preparation are free of charge. The VITA program at TEAM is staffed by local volunteers who are trained and certified by the IRS. We reserve the right to refuse tax preparation services to those who may require complex services beyond our scope and/or to those unable to provide documentation regarding their income.