

MILFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Infant and Toddler Times

JUDY LOBDELL, EDITOR

June 2020

Dates to Remember

In the "New Normal"

June



20th. Happy Summer



21st. Celebrate Father's Day

July



4th. Independence Day



The Milford Family Resource Center
@Mathewson School
466 West River Street
Milford, CT 06461
mfrc@milforded.org

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

Staying connected while staying safe

We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy and enjoying the slower pace our lives have taken, but while we are in this big pause, we look to staying connected in new ways.

As we launch our virtual playgroups, also know that we are reaching out in hopes to provide a way to keep in touch with everyone! These times have presented both unique opportunities, as well as challenges. So if you are looking for individual support that includes resources for screenings and activities to support your child's development, we are available to meet virtually at:

mfrc@milforded.org
amundy@milforded.org
kaspinwall@milforded.org
jlobdell@milforded.org

If your family is experiencing financial challenges, contact Peggy Kelly for confidential assistance
pkelly@milforded.org

We look forward to hearing from you.
Peggy Kelly Judy Lobdell

Kathy Aspinwall

Anne Mundy

While there are a myriad of resources out there, we seek to bring access to relevant resources most helpful for parents of young children, Here are few to consider:

<https://www.janetlansbury.com/2014/11/why-is-my-child-behaving-this-way-a-checklist/>
<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2020-04-02-10-ways-parents-can-bring-social-emotional-learning-home>

www.talkitoutct.com United Way of Milford

www.unitedwayofmilford.org

www.milforded.org Milford Community Connection Resource Page

211 infoline

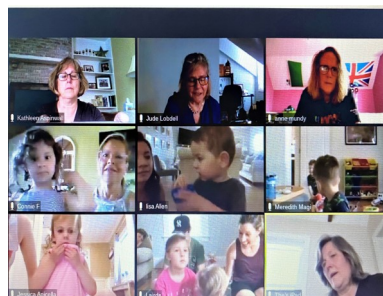
<https://consciousdiscipline.com/e-learning/webinars/covid-19-stress-how-uncertainty-affects-our-brains/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/03/parenting/kids-books-racism.html> Talk to Your Kids About Racism Early and Often

<https://www.uinet.com> United Illuminating

Also, check out the Noggin flyer on page 2.

We are moving forward with our virtual musical circle time playgroups. If you were enrolled in any of our playgroups for this past semester and would like to join us, please email us at mfrc@milforded.org so we can workout a meeting time.



Info About Noggin & the Partnership with United Way Worldwide

What is Noggin? A Nick (Nickelodeon) Jr. research-based learning service for children 2-6 years. It uses characters from popular television shows—like *Paw Patrol*, *Dora the Explorer*, *Peppa Pig*, and *Blue's Clues*—to educate kids and encourage 2-generation play.

What's in Noggin? It includes tv series, games, books, songs, play-alongs, and short-form videos with interactive activities in reading, math, science, movement, and mindfulness. Beginning in late spring/early summer, Noggin will offer "virtual trips" to cultural and scientific sites (e.g., a visit to Manhattan's Museum of Natural History with Peppa Pig).

What's the Offer? 90 days of *free* access to Noggin.

What's the Difference vs. Noggin's Free Trial Offer? The Noggin subscription service usually offers a 7-day free trial, with a sign-up commitment that charges a credit card at the end of the period unless the user cancels (\$7.99/month). Through the partnership with United Way Worldwide, Noggin is being offered **free for 90 days with no sign-up commitment. Users do not have to enter a credit card to enroll.** No marketing, no strings attached.

What's the goal? To promote learning and play at home, for families who need support while their young children are out of school due to the Covid-19 crisis.

Why are United Way & Noggin partnering? They share a common goal: that children enter school prepared to learn and succeed.

How do Families Access Noggin? <https://www.noggin.com/noggin-cares-unitedway/> Set up your account, then download the Noggin app from the App Store or from Amazon, Roku, Apple TV, or Google Play (for Android).

Do I need Wi-Fi? You will need Wi-Fi or a data connection (3G,4G) to download content. But you can download the e-books and play-along videos for later use *off-line*. (Note: not all content is available this way.)

Anything Else? Because we strive for impact, United Way would love to learn if you or your contacts used the service, and what their experience was.



How Can I Protect My Children from the Sun?

Your children's skin needs protection from the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays whenever they're outdoors.

Just a few serious sunburns can increase your child's risk of skin cancer later in life. Kids don't have to be at the pool, beach, or on vacation to get too much sun. Their skin needs protection from the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays whenever they're outdoors.

Seek shade. UV rays are strongest and most harmful during midday, so it's best to plan indoor activities then. If this is not possible, seek shade under a tree, an umbrella, or a pop-up tent. Use these options to prevent sunburn, not to seek relief after it's happened.

Cover up. When possible, long-sleeved shirts and long pants and skirts can provide protection from UV rays. Clothes made from tightly woven fabric offer the best protection. A wet T-shirt offers much less UV protection than a dry one, and darker colors may offer more protection than lighter colors. Some clothing certified under international standards comes with information on its ultraviolet protection factor.

Get a hat. Hats that shade the face, scalp, ears, and neck are easy to use and give great protection. Baseball caps are popular among kids, but they don't protect their ears and neck. If your child chooses a cap, be sure to protect exposed areas with sunscreen.

Wear sunglasses. They protect your child's eyes from UV rays, which can lead to cataracts later in life. Look for sunglasses that wrap around and block as close to 100% of both UVA and UVB rays as possible.

Apply sunscreen. Use sunscreen with at least SPF 30 and UVA and UVB (broad spectrum) protection every time your child goes outside. For the best protection, apply sunscreen generously 30 minutes before going outdoors. Don't forget to protect ears, noses, lips, and the tops of feet. Take sunscreen with you to reapply often during the day, especially after your child swims or exercises. This applies to waterproof and water-resistant products as well. Follow the directions on the package for using a sunscreen product on babies less than 6 months old. All products do not have the same ingredients; if your or your child's skin reacts badly to one product, try another one or call a doctor. Your baby's best defense against sunburn is avoiding the sun or staying in the shade. Keep in mind, sunscreen is not meant to allow kids to spend more time in the sun than they would otherwise. Try combining sunscreen with other options to prevent UV damage.

From the CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/children.htm





Purple Pantry Boxes founder Susan Brown stands with builder Chris Grejtak and deployer Larry Woodcock when placing the box to help feed the needy at the YMCA site on Orange Avenue in Milford. Visit <https://purplepantryboxes.com/> for list of locations.

Our Team

The Purple Pantry Boxes team is comprised of family, friends, and community members.

Our Director and Founder Susan Brown is joined by our Chief Financial Officer Aaron Brown Ortiz, and Media Executive Tyler Brown-Ortiz. Our pantry box builders are Chris Grejtak and Walt Faulckner. Larry Woodcock serves as our deployment specialist. The signs on our boxes are designed by Denise Lukienchuk.

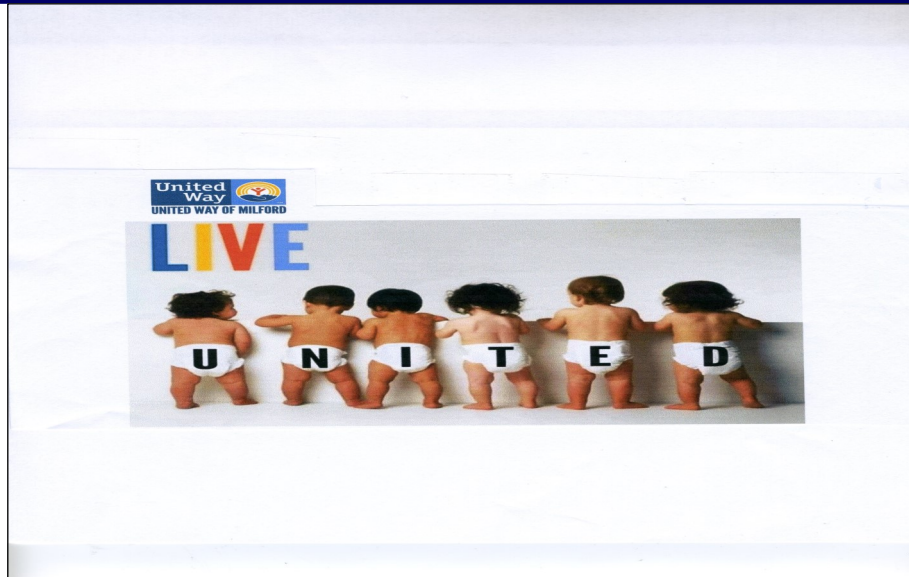
Our History

The need for food is ever present. With that need in mind, I decided to create pop up food pantries in my city, Milford, CT. In two months we have grown from one to nine pantry boxes throughout the community.
-Susan Brown, Founder

Our Mission

Our motto is: We want people to have easy access to staple food items while also engaging members of the community to donate. **# Purple Boxes**





The importance of supporting our neighbors
has always been our mission!

The United Way of Milford's goal is to ensure that all children in our Milford community have access to diapers and 'no child has a wet behind'.

Here at the United Way of Milford we have focused on increasing access to diapers as one of our priorities during this pandemic. If you or someone you know is in need of diapers please call our office at (203) 874-6791 to schedule an appointment for pick up.

The United Way of Milford's Diaper Bank was established to keep local babies healthy and happy by providing access to diapers for families in need. With your continued support we have been able to give out over 20,000 diapers to our most vulnerable neighbors.

We need your help now more than ever. Please consider making a donation to our [COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund](#) today.

Donations can be made on our website www.unitedwayofmilford.org or by calling our office (203) 874-6791 or by sending a check to:

United Way of Milford
20 Evergreen Avenue
Milford, CT 06460



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



DATE: May 22, 2020
TO: Providers of Services to Young Children
FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner
RE: Coronavirus Memo #23
Access to Testing for OEC Funded Providers

The Office of Early Childhood in collaboration with the State's Unified Command, is making testing available to direct care providers funded by the OEC including Home Visiting, Birth to Three, School Readiness, Child Day Care, State Head Start, Smart Start and Care 4 Kids.

Individuals from qualifying OEC funded locations may request testing by emailing the Office of Early Childhood at OEC.CovidTesting@ct.gov.

Those individuals from OEC funded programs eligible for testing include:

First priority to persons with one or more of these symptoms:

Fever of 100 degrees or higher;
New cough within last 14 days;
Shortness of breath

Second priority to persons with one or more of the following risk factors:

Exposure to or contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days;
Immunosuppressed;
Pregnant

The Office of Early Childhood will provide an individual who qualifies for testing with instructions on how to access the drive up testing site in New Haven. Individuals will be provided with a test date by the OEC; no appointments are necessary but approval for testing on a given day is required. Test recipients must bring their personal identification and some form of work identification, employment verification or the OEC email confirming the testing approval. Testing uses Abbott swab tests and provides results on-site shortly after the swab is taken.

As a reminder, [OEC's memos](#) provide guidance on health and sanitation practices during the COVID-19 emergency.

If a child or staff member who has been present in the program is diagnosed with COVID-19, the child care provider must notify their local health department, the CT Department of Public Health, families and staff of the child care program about the exposure. More information is available in [Memo #6 REVISED, Message Regarding Child Care](#).

We hope this opportunity will help ensure a healthy and safe experience for OEC providers.

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