

MILFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Infant and Toddler Times

JUDY LOBDELL, EDITOR

March 2018

Dates to Remember

March

1st. Parent Seminar.
Topic: Children's Dental Health. Guest speaker: Elaine Colangelo, Dental Hygienist
2nd. Read Across America Day
11th. Spring forward.
Set clocks 1 hour ahead.
15th. Parent Seminar:
Topic: Toilet Learning
17th. Happy Saint Patrick's Day
20th. Happy Spring



30th. Good Friday.
Center closed.

April

4th. Legislative Breakfast (see page 4)
16th - 20th. Spring Break. Center closed.
Week of the Young Child

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*On the Road to Literacy: Learning to Write.

Parents wait for that wonderful day when their child learns to read. But reading words is only part of early literacy – writing is important to literacy, too. And, no matter what your child's age, he is learning to write.

My baby can't even hold a pencil.

Long before a child can pick up a pencil, the stage is set for the development of writing. When your baby uses his index finger and thumb to grasp objects it is called the pincer grasp. This skill forms the basis for holding a pencil in a mature writing position.

Being able to control a pencil depends on stability of the shoulder and arm, and strength and dex-ter-ity of the hand and fingers. Babyhood is one of the few times in life when a child bears his weight on his arms and shoulders to strengthen them. A baby bears weight on his hands when he is on his tummy and pushes up to raise his head or chest off the surface. Crawling is a major source of weight bearing for babies (continued on page 2)



Celebrate Read Across America Day March 2

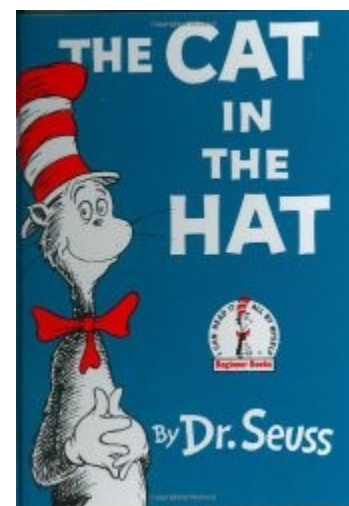
Grab your hat and read with the cat". The National Education Association (NEA) "calls for all children to be reading in the company of a caring adult". You can visit their website at www.nea.org/readacross/ for more information.

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."

in the last half of their first year. Be sure to give your baby lots of tummy time to build strong back, shoulders and arms for crawling and writing.

Vision also plays an important role in writing. Children have to use their hands and eyes together to coordinate the movement of the pencil. When babies gaze and focus on their parents' faces or accurately reach for and grasp objects, they are practicing eye-hand coordination.

Toddlers are scribblers.

Toddlers are driven by their curiosity to explore with their hands and eyes. Let your toddler play with materials of different textures and consistencies, such as shaving cream or play dough, to provide stimulation for fine motor development. Unscrewing lids or turning doorknobs helps your toddler's wrist become strong yet flexible. Supply lots of paper and a variety of writing tools to encourage your child to scribble often. Drawing with a child helps him associate writing with comfort and enjoyment as he moves into writing in the preschool years.

Preschoolers are writers.

Your child will probably show an interest in writing by using it in his pretend play, such as scribbling a "shopping list" while playing store. When they do this, preschoolers demonstrate an understanding that spoken language can be written down and that it must be read in the same way every time. They know that the symbols of writing have meaning and they begin to reproduce those that have the most meaning to them! Your child will probably begin by writing the letters of her name or M-O-M and D-A-D.

As children begin to write, they creatively use space on the page, sometimes moving their writing from right to left or slanting it up the page. After much experimentation and experience, children gain the awareness and control to place letters on a line and write from left to right. Your child will begin to have more control over writing tools when he starts to use a mature grip, called a tripod grip, to hold them.

This is a good sign he's ready to learn to write and read in school.

Encourage your preschooler's writing by giving him old calendars, notebooks or address books to write in. He will enjoy imitating you. Point out letters you see while running errands, especially letters that are in his name. Sit with him and let him enjoy the process of learning to write without pressure to make the letters right. That will come with time.

Steps in learning to write:

- Experiments with writing tools by scribbling
- Scribbles left to right
- Understands the difference between drawing and writing
- Makes letter-like forms and perhaps some letters
- Writes letters all over the page
- Strings letters together to represent writing
- Groups letters separated by spaces to imitate words
- Copies a letter by looking at a model
- Writes a first word, usually his name

** (from the Parents As Teachers Parent Page)*



**Kindergarten Registration is now open.
Welcome Class of 2031**

For complete instructions on how to register online you can go to:

<https://www.milforded.org/district/register>



Save the Date:

Kids Count of Milford's Harborlight Happening

Thursday, May 10, 2018

6:00 to 9:30 pm

Milford Yacht Club

Cocktails, Dinner, Dessert

Silent and Live Auction and so much more!

\$55.00 per person



***If you can give your son or daughter only one gift, let it be enthusiasm.
-Bruce Barton***



**Parking lots present so much potential for injuries and accidents for young children;
so how can you keep your child safe in parking lots?**

Pay Attention

Make sure your child remains with you at all times. This sounds simple, but as parents, we all know how easy it is to become distracted, and within seconds, our child is out of reach. Therefore, whenever you enter a parking lot, it is imperative to put away your cell phone, shopping list, or whatever it is that may take your eyes off of your child, even for a minute.

Use a Stroller

According to preventinjury.org, toddlers (one and two years of age) sustain the highest number of pedestrian injuries. This is due to their small size and limited experience. It is unrealistic to assume that your toddler will perfectly comply with your rules all of the time. Even the most well behaved youngster may forget himself and suddenly sprint off. If you cannot keep a firm grip on your child's hand while in a parking lot, play it safe and buckle him into the stroller.

Teach Your Children

Do not assume your child understands the dangers lurking in a parking lot. Because it seems so clear to you, it is easy to overestimate your child's knowledge. KidsandCars.org suggests teaching your child that parked vehicles may move. They also recommend reminding children that even though they can see a vehicle, the driver may not see them. Thousands of children are seriously injured or die yearly because a driver simply didn't see them while backing up. You also need to teach your child the dangers of running off, due to the unlikely event that they will be abducted or, more likely, get lost. While we do not want to frighten our kids unnecessarily, we also do not want them to be unaware. Talk to your child in an age-appropriate way about the importance of sticking close to you.

Watch for Other People's Children

Although you may always keep a close eye on your youngster in parking lots, don't assume everyone else does the same. Before getting into your vehicle, KidsandCars.org recommends walking around and behind the vehicle, prior to moving. Also, keep a careful eye out for children as you back out and maneuver through the parking lot.

Some Additional Reminders

There are several devices and gadgets available that are designed to help keep little ones safe in parking areas. Many cars now come equipped with rear-view cameras and sensors, which let you know when you are close to an object (or person). These devices are good, but there is no substitute for vigilance. Keep a close eye and hand on your child, so you can get to and from your car with your child's safe.



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

Milford Yacht Club

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

8:00 to 10:00 am

***Special Guests: Ms. Rebecca Camperlengo and her
Third Grade Students
Mathewson Elementary School***

Champion of Young Children Award Recipient:

*Christine Kennedy, Supervisor
Preschool and Elementary Special Education
Office of Pupil Personnel
Milford Public Schools*

***Milford Salvation Army Service Unit
Acknowledgement of High School Students***

Milford Legislators:

*Senator Gayle Slossberg
Representative Kim Rose
Representative Pamela Staneski
Representative Charles Ferraro*

*Sponsored by:
Kids Count of Milford*

Please RSVP to Peggy Kelly @ 203-783-3627 or email at pkelly@milforded.org by March 15, 2018

*\$25.00 per person. Please make checks payable to Kids Count of Milford
Mail to: Kids Count of Milford
167 Cherry Street, Milford, Connecticut 06460
Payment accepted at door*