

MILFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Infant and Toddler Times

JUDY LOBDELL, EDITOR

May 2018

Dates to Remember

May

10th. Harborlight
Happening
(see p. 3 for details)

13th. Celebrate
Mothers Day



28th. Memorial
Day Center closed.



June

8th. Last day of
playgroup

17th. Celebrate
Fathers Day

26th. Pancakes for
Parkinson's (see p. 5)

Summer Days
will start July 10th
here at Mathewson
and run for 4 weeks.
Families can choose a
Tuesday or Thursday
group. Meeting time
will be from
9:30 - 11:00 AM

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

Engaging Toddlers in Nature Play

By Monica Wiedel-Lubinski

Your child is watching your every move and picking up cues based on how you interact with nature. If your aim is to instill respect and love for all things wild, try these simple activities with children ages three months to two years old:

- Let baby crinkle dry leaves on the ground. Crunch the leaves with baby as he enjoys the sound.
- Visit shrubs and trees to allow baby to touch and grab at the green leaves. Smell the leaves with baby.
- Invite baby to grab and feel soil with hands and toes.
- Quietly watch birds fly overhead and squirrels pitter patter.
- Listen to bird sounds and mimic them for baby: "teacher-teacher-teacher", "peter-peter-peter", or "caw caw"!
- Visit nearby flowers. Gently touch and smell the flowers. Say color names to baby and describe how the petals or leaves feel.
- Pick up twigs and seeds for baby to manipulate. Try tossing helicopter seeds to watch them spin.
- Blow bubbles in the wind. Listen to the sounds of the bubbles pop on blades of grass.



(continued on page 2)



Engaging Toddlers, continued from page 1



- Make sounds with what you find outside. Try tapping acorns, walnuts, or twigs together and invite baby to join in.
- Touch tree bark and describe how it feels to baby (rough, smooth, bumpy, scratchy).
- Pick up a worm, cricket, or ant and show baby how it moves in your hand. If baby is welcoming, let the tiny animal crawl in baby's hand.
- Stand your barefoot baby on soft grass or moss. Encourage baby to touch the grass or moss with fingers, too.
- Play in a puddle. Stir up water with twigs, dip fingers or toes in, or float leaves in the water.

Your curious child will develop positive feelings about nature through happy, sensory associations of nature play with you. As you explore together, you are making more than memories; you are nurturing baby's lifelong love of nature!

Common Sense Notes about Nature Play

Always supervise your child! Never leave her unattended outdoors and watch closely whenever she is holding small objects. Never allow her to taste any leaves, and do not allow her to play in soil or grass where pesticides or other chemicals may have been applied.

(From the NAEYC newsletter)

The Junior Women's Club of Milford Presents

"Touch A Truck"

June 3rd

Eisenhower Park

11- 3PM (Quiet Hour 12-1)

\$5.00 per person/\$7.00 at gate

(visit Facebook page for presale tickets)
(under 2 free)

RAIN or SHINE

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*

(to reserve a spot call Peggy Kelly at 203 783-3627)



Kids Count of Milford 's Legislative Breakfast



Rebecca Camperlengo and her third grade students from the Mathewson School.



Joseph A Foran, Jonathan Law and Platt Tech students who raised funds for the Milford Salvation Army.



Andrea Giannattasio awarded Christine Kennedy Kids Count's Champion of Young Children for her dedication to the success of all Milford children.



Senator Gayle Slossberg, Representatives Kim Rose, Charles Ferraro and Pam Staneski presented a citation from the General Assembly to Christine Kennedy.



Lesley Darling and Joan Canavan of the Milford Salvation Army Service Unit acknowledged Rev. Bulkley and Terry Fonseca of the Kingdom Life Church for their Backpack Program.



Dr. Mary Jo Kramer, Peggy Kelly, Lesley Darling and Gary Johnson of Kids Count.



A very big
thank you to the
members of the
Mom's Club of
Milford and their
little 'bunnies'
for helping to
create a happy
holiday with
Easter baskets
for Milford
families.



SAVE THE DATE:
Pancakes for Parkinson's
Tuesday, June 26, 2018
Chip's Family Restaurant
321 Boston Post Road, Orange

Tickets are \$12.00.

For further information, email Peggy Kelly: pkelly@milforded.org





**UNITED WAY OF MILFORD
&
WOODRUFF FAMILY YMCA**

the



SAVE THE DATE!

**JUNE 9TH, 2018
(PIRATE WEEKEND)**

**12:00 NOON
MEMORIAL BRIDGE**

PRESENT THE:



\$5.00 PER DUCK

**TO PURCHASE YOUR DUCKS VISIT
MilfordDuckRace.com**

**For more information contact
United Way -203-874-6791 or
Woodruff Family YMCA at 203-878-6501**