

MILFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Infant and Toddler Times

JUDY LOBDELL, EDITOR

September 2017

*Dates to
Remember*

September

21st. *Rosh Hashanah
observed. Center
closed.*

22nd. *First day of
Autumn*

**Please see page 2
for important
information about
the budget vote on
Thursday
September 14th**



Welcome
Fall

Welcome
Back to School



**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**

The Special Job of Grandparenting



*The word 'Grandparent' may make you think of the image of a gentle, grey-haired person who bakes the best cookies and tells family stories. And, indeed, many grandparents do those things. But today grandparents play many roles in the lives of their families. Their special relationships with their grandchildren can be nurturing and enriching for all generations. Here are some things that are the special job of grandparents.

GRANDPARENTS CAN BE PLAYMATES

Grandparents often feel more open to getting down on the floor and playing with babies and toddlers. The jobs of disciplining, protecting and providing for their grandchild can be assumed by their adult children, giving grandparents the opportunity to provide one-on-one attention. They can once again marvel at the astounding process of development in a child they love, and can provide patient enrichment and guidance for learning. If you are a grandparent, take opportunities to learn about child development and age-appropriate ways to play. The good time you have will be priceless for both of you.

GRANDPARENTS CAN BE FAMILY LEADERS

Relationships in families can be strained sometimes. Grandparents can provide leadership to develop the best relationships possible with their adult children. Respect the responsibility adult children have to parent their own children, knowing that there will be differences and similarities with the things you did as a parent. Be kind and considerate, while being clear about the role you want to play in your grandchild's life.

GRANDPARENTS PASS DOWN TRADITIONS

Grandparents remember how and why traditions are celebrated within the family. They can sing favorite songs and tell stories of the celebrations past. Telling stories of the past, even if it's recent, communicates your cultural practices and beliefs. Be intentional about sharing your family's history and culture with your grandchildren from the time they are very young. It's rewarding to see children grow in the knowledge of who they are, where their family came from, and what their family stands for.

GRANDPARENTS CAN BE CAREGIVERS

Many grandparents care for their grandchildren. This commitment can range from occasional babysitting to being the legal guardian and primary caregiver. As a grandparent, you may face tough decisions about caring for your grandchild. How much time are you willing to commit? Does your grandchild's situation make it necessary for you take legal responsibility for him? If you have legal custody of your grandchild or he is living with you, there are many places to get help with this challenging job. You may be eligible to enroll in Parents as Teachers and receive personal visits and guidance in finding assistance in your community. It's easy to feel isolated when you are a grandparent raising a grandchild. Know that you are not alone and that Parents as Teachers is able to help you.

**From the Parents as Teachers Parent Page*



Alert regarding the funding of the Milford Family Resource Centers

At present, all 72 Family Resource Centers across Connecticut are awaiting the approval of the State budget by the Legislature, at which point we will learn whether or not we will continue to be funded and at what level. Each and every Family Resource Center has provided extraordinary family focused services that have had a positive impact in the lives of thousands of Connecticut residents.

Currently, no FRCs have received funding for this school year. As a result, some FRCs in Connecticut have had to close or cut back drastically on their services.

Fortunately, with the support of the Milford Public Schools, the Milford Family Resource Center will remain open this semester, that is, until the end of December, 2017.

The FRC has been providing a wide array of family support services to Milford families since 1994. They include personal visits at the Center or at home, parent/child "playgroups", parent seminars, a parent warm line, monthly newsletters, resource and referral services such as birth to 3, parent completed and staff scored Ages and Stages Questionnaires, access to backpacks, payless gift cards, food gift cards, Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas toys and gifts to name just some of the services.

We have been informed that a vote will be taken on **Thursday, September 14**.

Therefore, we are asking that you email or call our local legislators indicating that they vote for full funding (\$103,000) for the Milford Family Resource Center. If you live in another city or town, please reach out to your senators and representatives.

We remain hopeful that the Legislature will approve a budget that will allow us all to continue to provide these much needed services.

The contact information is as follows:

Senator Gayle Slossberg	email: Slossberg@senatedems.ct.gov	phone: 860.240.0482
Representative Kim Rose	email: Kim.rose@cga.ct.gov	phone: 860-240-8585
Representative Pamela Staneski	email: Pam.Staneski@housegop.ct.gov	phone: 860-240-8700
Representative Charles Ferraro	email: Charles.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov	phone: 860-240-8700

Thank you for your support of the Milford Family Resource Center.



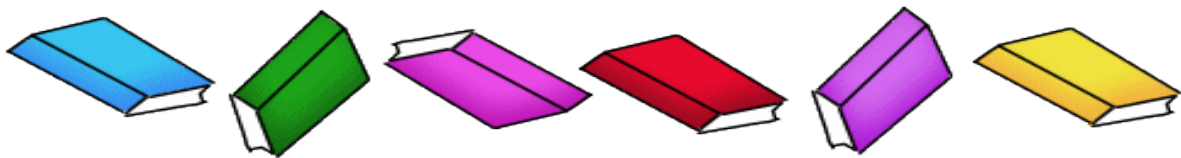
September News from Milford Public Library, Children's Department 203-783-3312; milfordlibrary.org

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

TODDLER TIME Every Thursday beginning in September 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 September 14 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.

STARRY NIGHT STORIES Wednesday September 20 at 6:30pm An evening storytime for ages 3 and up. Siblings always welcome. Make sure to come dressed in your pajamas. Starry Night Storytimes will be held the third Wednesday of the month from September-December.

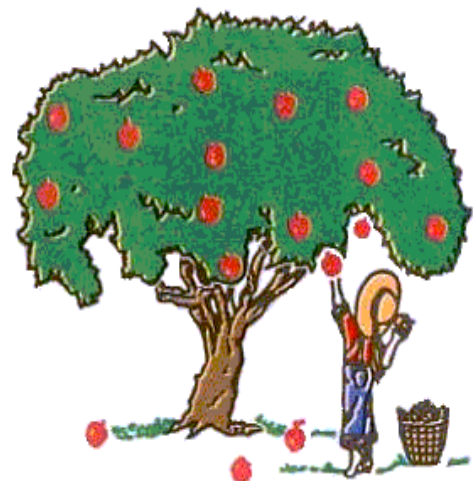


It's that time of year again. If you are looking for some fun fall things to do, these orchards offer a variety of fruits and vegetables to pick.

**Silverman's Farms
Easton, Ct.**

**Bishop's Orchard
Guilford, Ct.**

**Lyman's Orchards
Middlefield, Ct.**



Connecticut has a new car seat law*

Is your child in the correct seat?

Per the Connecticut Office of Legislative Research, the law should be interpreted as such that each Subsection builds from the previous Subsection. If your Child's Age or Child's Weight are not in the same Subsection, you may only choose a Car Seat Option that is listed in BOTH Subsections.

	Subsection A	Subsection B	Subsection C
Child's Age	Under 2 years	2 - 5 years	5 - 8 years
	OR	OR	OR
Child's Weight	Under 30 pounds	30 - 40 pounds	40 - 60 pounds
Car Seat Options	•Rear Facing w/harness	•Rear Facing w/harness •Forward Facing w/harness	•Rear Facing w/harness •Forward Facing w/harness •Booster w/seat belt

Children who are at least 8 years old AND weigh at least 60 pounds can use the vehicle seat belt or an approved child restraint system.

© Courtney Levesque / Safe in The Car

Q: My son is 13 months old and weighs 35 pounds. Can he ride forward facing since he is more than 30 pounds?

A: His weight falls within the limits of Subsection B (30 - 40 pounds), however since he is still under 2 years old, his age falls within Subsection A, therefore he must remain rear facing until he is 2 years old.

Q: My daughter is 4 years old and weighs 45 pounds. Can she use a booster seat with the seat belt?

A: Her weight falls within Subsection C (40 - 60 pounds), but her age is still within Subsection B (2 - 5 years), therefore she still needs to ride in either a rear facing car seat or a forward facing car seat until she is at least 5 years old.

Q: My daughter is 9 years old and weighs 55 pounds. Does she still need to use a booster seat?

A: Yes, she still needs a booster seat. Even though she is over 8 years old, she is still under 60 pounds. She should continue to use her booster seat until she is at least 60 pounds.

Q: My son is 2.5 years old and weighs 24 pounds. Can I turn him forward facing or does he need to remain rear facing?

A: Even though his age falls within Subsection B (2 - 5 years), his weight falls within Subsection A (under 30 pounds). He must remain rear facing until he weighs 30 pounds.

*effective October 1, 2017

These are legal minimums ONLY! Always follow Best Practice.

Consult a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician to learn what type of seat is safest for your child.

www.facebook.com/safeinthecar

KIDS COUNT NEWS

Peggy Kelly, Executive Director

September, 2017

New Kids Count of Milford Website

Kids Count of Milford is pleased to announce that it has a new website:
kidscountofmilford.com

Here you will find information about the ***Susan Henchman Pavelko Memorial Preschool Scholarship Program***, upcoming workshops for parents and preschool staff, the annual Preschool Showcase, the Legislative Breakfast, Harborlight Happening and how to access information



The Milford Salvation Army Service Unit
Backpack Team



Preschool Showcase

Sponsored by
Kids Count of Milford

Kids Count is pleased to announce that the Annual Preschool Showcase will be held on **Saturday, November 4, 2017** from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Milford Library on New Haven Avenue.

Preschools from Milford will be there to share information about their programs which will include the school's philosophy, curriculum, registration information and fees. Parents will have the opportunity to meet the staff and ask questions that will be helpful to them as a beginning step in deciding which preschool they will enroll their child.

Kids Count of Milford will provide information on the importance of preschool and how to choose a preschool

Staff from the Milford Family Resource Center will be on hand to discuss how to prepare your child for pre-school.

If you have questions about this event, please feel free to call Peggy Kelly, Executive Director, at 203-783-3627 or email at pkelly@milforded.org.

Children are welcome!!



Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

It's amazing what one person can do! If you want to make a real difference, The Parent Leadership Training Institute is a free educational experience that will prepare you to become an effective advocate and change agent for all children – in schools, communities and government.

A new session of PLTI is set to begin in Milford in January, 2018. Parents, grandparents and other adults who wish to improve the lives of children and families in our community are encouraged to participate. Applications are now being accepted for a class that will be limited to 25 participants. For more information please contact Lesley Darling at the Milford Health Department. Phone: [203-783-3383](tel:203-783-3383). Email: ldarling@ci.milford.ct.us you can also register at the following link <http://www.ci.milford.ct.us/health-department/webforms/plti-online-registration>

"I had a great experience with Milford's PLTI program. There are few programs as uniquely designed to put people in touch with their communities. It was an extremely empowering experience."

--Augie Harrigan, Milford PLTI Class of 2012

