

MILFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Infant and Toddler Times

JUDY LOBDELL, EDITOR

September 2018

Dates to Remember

September

3rd. Labor Day.
Center closed.

10th. Rosh Hashanah.
Center closed.

19th. Yom Kippur.
Center closed.

**Our fall 2018
semester will
start on
September 11th.**



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Learning to Write – It IS Rocket Science!

Hedda Sharapan from the Fred Rogers Center outlines in her article the importance of providing low tech opportunities for young children to learn the art of writing. She believes, yes, this low tech activity is rocket science in that it requires a complex set of skills that cannot necessarily be accomplished with a high tech device!

With this thought in mind, Sharapan goes on to offer the following activities that serve to encourage this important skill of learning to write:

Model writing

Let the children see you writing notes or making lists or signs. Show them that you can read the words that you've written. When children see that writing is useful and valuable in our world, they'll be more motivated to stick with the hard task of learning to write.

Offer props

Give children "grownup" writing tools to use in their play -- a notebook, post-it notes or a clipboard. Set up a writing center, with props like envelopes, lined tablets, catalogs, any kind of forms, stickers for stamps, old greeting cards.

Create a word box

Ask children, "What words do YOU want to learn how to write?" Some might want to write names of people in their family, their pets or their street. Write those words on index cards or strips of paper to put in their own individual "word box." Some may want "feeling" words, like mad or sad or "I love you." From time to time, add new words. (excerpted from Hedda Sharapan's *Learning to Write...*)*

*<https://mailchi.mp/stvincent/learning-to-write-it-is-rocket-science?e=54edccd60e>

Another important point to remember is that as children learn to write, they are also learning to read. They are actively involved with creating language that is reinforced by utilizing, yet, another sense - their kinesthetic memory. With this other tool in the toolbox, it serves to make deeper connections to language and meaning. For young children, drawing a picture and 'writing' about it also helps to connect meaning to writing.

For some examples of how the writing process typically progresses you can visit this website: <http://www.readingrockets.org/looking-at-writing/pre-k-writing-sample-1>



Attention Milford Residents: There are still openings in our playgroups for the fall semester. Please call to register your child(ren). Monday: Infants; Tuesday: Young Toddlers; Wednesday and Thursday: Toddlers Friday: Preschoolers



"For young children, learning to write their name IS "rocket science." It's a complex skill that requires memory, fine motor movements, hand-eye coordination, focus and persistence. As hard as it is to learn how to write, you can see how driven children are to master writing, especially when it's something important to them like their name."



Summer Days 2018

We had great fun!



The Ready to Learn School Readiness Program for the 2018-19 school year held its Getting to Know You Gathering with children, parents, grandparents and staff prior to the start of school.



Above: Classroom 1 at Orange Avenue School Below: Classroom 2 at Orange Avenue School



The Ready to Learn School Readiness Program for the 2018-19 school year held its Getting to Know You Gathering with children, parents, grandparents and staff prior to the start of school.



Above: Classroom 3 at Live Oaks School Below: Classroom 4 at Pumpkin Delight School





Are you in need of FOOD?

**Department of Human Services
City of Milford**

If you are a Milford Resident and are in need of some assistance with food, or other Outreach Services, please contact the DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES at 203-783-3253.

Contact the office to speak with one of our **Community Outreach Workers**, who will complete an intake and can refer you to the **Milford Food Bank**.

Call Monday - Friday, between 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Department of Human Services

City of Milford
Department of Human Services
150 Gulf Street
Milford, CT 06460
Telephone: (203) 783-3253
Fax: (203) 783-3238



**fighting
hunger
together**

Five Important Reasons to Immunize Your Child



You want to do what is best for your children. You know about the importance of car seats, baby gates, and other ways to keep them safe. But, did you know that one of the best ways to protect your children is to make sure they have all of their vaccinations?

Immunizations can save your child's life. Because of advances in medical science, your child can be protected against more diseases than ever before. Some diseases that once injured or killed thousands of children have been eliminated completely and others are close to being gone – primarily due to safe and effective vaccines. One example of the great impact vaccines can have is the eradication of polio in the United States. Polio was once America's most-feared disease causing death and paralysis across the country but today, thanks to vaccination, there are no reports of polio in the United States.

Vaccination is safe and effective. All vaccines are only given to children after a long and careful review by scientists, doctors, and healthcare professionals. Vaccines will involve some discomfort and may cause pain, redness, or tenderness at the site of injection but this is minimal compared to the pain, discomfort, and trauma of the diseases these vaccines prevent. The most comprehensive scientific studies and reviews have not found a link between vaccines and autism. Groups of experts, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Institute of Medicine (IOM), the National Institute of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal agencies also agree that vaccines are not responsible for the number of children now recognized to have autism.

Immunization protects others you care about. Serious vaccine-preventable diseases still occur. Unfortunately, some babies are too young to be completely vaccinated and some people may not be able to receive vaccinations due to allergies, illness, weakened immune systems, or other reasons. To help keep these individuals safe, it is important that you and your children who are able to get vaccinated are fully immunized. This not only protects your family, but also helps prevent the spread of these diseases to your friends and loved ones.

Immunizations can save your family time and money. A child with a vaccine-preventable disease can be kept out of schools or daycare facilities. A prolonged illness can take a financial toll because of lost time at work, medical bills, or long-term disability care. In comparison, getting vaccinated against these diseases is a good investment and usually covered by insurance. The Vaccines for Children program is a federally funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of inability to pay. To find out more about the VFC program, visit, <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/> or ask your child's healthcare provider.

Immunization protects future generations. Vaccines have reduced and, in some cases, eliminated many diseases that killed or severely disabled people just a few generations before. For example, smallpox vaccination helped eradicate that disease world wide. Your children don't have to get smallpox shots any more because the disease no longer exists. If we keep vaccinating now, parents in the future may be able to trust that diseases like polio and measles won't infect, cripple, or kill children.

For more information about the importance of infant immunization, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines>.

