

MILFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Infant and Toddler Times

JUDY LOBDELL, EDITOR

April 2017

Dates to Remember April

10th.-14th. Spring break. Center closed.

11th. Pancakes for Parkinson's at Chips
Hourly seatings 4:30 on.

22nd. Celebrate Earth Day



24th. -28th.



May

11th. Harborlight
Happening

14th. Celebrate Mother's Day



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Encouraging Words

By AMY MCCREADY

Do you ever feel like the only words that come out of your mouth are direct orders? "Empty the trash, be nice to your sister, quit jumping on the couch!!!" A big part of preventing bad behavior, however, is to provide encouraging words to reinforce good behavior when you see it. And a quick "good job" doesn't cut it—in fact, phrases like "good boy," "you're so smart!" and "you're the best on your team!" are not considered all that encouraging. Instead of focusing on positive internal qualities, they put the emphasis on outward praise, which does little to promote good behavior in the future. True encouraging words focus on the deed, not the doer. It motivates a child from the inside to demonstrate similar positive behavior in the future, and to value things like hard work, improvement, teamwork and perseverance.

Try this list of 27 Encouraging Words and Phrases:

Thank you for your help!
You should be proud of yourself!
Look at your improvement!
That "A" reflects a lot of hard work!
You worked really hard to get this room clean!
Thanks for helping set the table, that made a big difference.
I noticed you were really patient with your little brother.
What do you think about it?
You seem to really enjoy science.
Your hard work paid off!
That's a tough one, but you'll figure it out.
Look how far you've come!
I trust your judgment.
The time you're putting into your homework is really paying off.
I love being with you.
You really put a smile on her face with your kind words!
That's coming along nicely!
You really worked it out!
That's a very good observation.
Thank you for your cooperation.
I see a very thorough job!
That's what we call perseverance!
I can tell you really care.
You make it look easy!
You've really got the hang of it!
I can tell you spent a lot of time thinking this through.
I really feel like a team when we work like this!

The best part about using encouraging words with your kids is the glow of happiness you'll see on their faces. After all, "Your hard work is really paying off!" says you noticed their work, while, "You're so smart," might be hard to live up to next time. Try a few of these encouraging words with your kids, and watch their behavior—and effort—improve.

Amy McCready is the Founder of Positive Parenting Solutions

Celebrate Earth Day April 22nd

For some ideas on how to celebrate with young children you can visit
<http://tinkerlab.com/fifty-earth-day-activities/>
<https://www.thespruce.com/earth-day-activities-for-kids-1708828>



Save the Date

For further information visit:
the Maren Sanchez 5k run/walk website.



PRESENTING SPONSOR
COLONY GRILL

Music & Arts Festival!

April 29, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
5K starts at 9 am
Jonathan Law High School • Free entry!
Food, Fun, Prizes, ALL AGES!

PEACE
LOVE &
MUSIC
FROM
MAREN

National Playground Safety Week 2017 is April 24-28.

Playground Safety Week is a time to focus on children's outdoor play environments.
A time to pledge to use good judgment when playing. A time for gratitude for all the adults
who work tirelessly on maintaining our playgrounds.

A Quick Checklist for Parents

Place this list in a prominent area of your home for quick reference. Then, before your children head out the door for the playground, check that:

Supervision is present, but strings and ropes aren't.

Adult presence is needed to watch for potential hazards, observe, intercede and facilitate play when necessary. Strings on clothing or ropes used for play can cause accidental strangulation if caught on equipment.

All children play on age-appropriate equipment.

Preschoolers, ages 2 - 5, and children, ages 5 - 12, are developmentally different and need different equipment located in separate areas to keep the playground safe and fun for all.

Falls to surface are cushioned.

Nearly 70 percent of all playground injuries are related to falls to the surface. Acceptable surfaces include hardwood fiber/mulch, pea gravel, sand and synthetic materials such as poured-in-place, rubber mats or tiles. Playground surfaces should not be concrete, asphalt, grass, blacktop, packed dirt or rocks.

Equipment is safe.

Check to make sure the equipment is anchored safely in the ground, all equipment pieces are in good working order, S-hooks are entirely closed, bolts are not protruding, there are no exposed footings, etc.

From the **National Program for Playground Safety:** <http://www.uni.edu>



Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

The Milford Hospital Auxiliary will host it's Annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny for children and their families. Parents are welcome to bring cameras for photos. Space is limited and reservations are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost is \$7 per adult and \$5 per child.

Please call to make reservations.

When: Saturday, April 08, 2017 9:30 AM

Where: Milford Hospital 300 Seaside Avenue Milford, Ct 06460

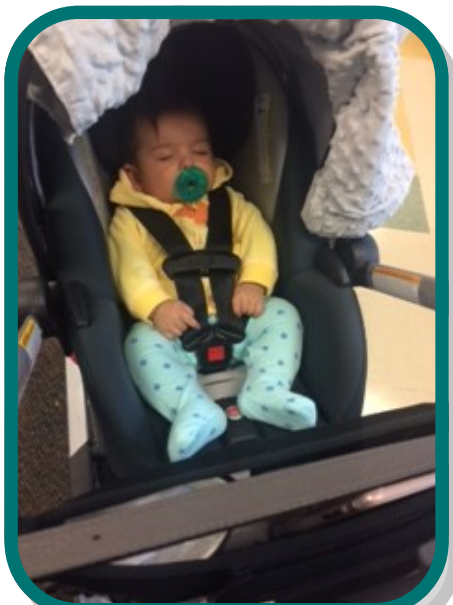
For More Info: 203-647-6654

On March 20th, Katie Vaheb, sleep consultant and owner of Restful Dreams, visited us with some timely information on the topic of sleep.



Putting that
training into
action!

Zz



Celebrate NAEYC's Week of the Young Child™

April 24-28, 2017

The **Week of the Young Child™** is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of **Young Children** (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, **young children**, their teachers and families. Visit their website for ideas about activities for each day of the week at:

<https://www.naeyc.org/woyc>



April Milford Public Library Programs



ABC AMIGOS at PRESCHOOL STORYTIME: Mondays and Tuesdays in April at 10am Hola, ¿cómo estás?! Join us for Preschool Storytimes during the month of April for “ABC Amigos,” a fun, interactive Spanish class for preschoolers! We will sing, dance, play games and read stories in Spanish and English! This program is a great way to introduce a new language to your preschoolers!

TINKER TUESDAY in the BRAIN STATION: “WISH YOU WERE HERE!” Tuesday April 11 from 11am-3pm Make sure you visit our library makerspace for hands-on tech and engineering activities. And have fun with our green screen! Take a virtual vacation and “send” a postcard of yourself “visiting” a world landmark!

SHADOWS AROUND THE WORLD with NAPPY’S PUPPETS Thursday April 13 at 2pm Nappy’s Puppet’s are back! Shadow theater is an art form enjoyed all over the world. Come and enjoy fun and engaging stories from around the globe told with the magic of shadow puppets.

MANGO, ABUELA AND ME: CELEBRATE BIRDS OF THE WORLD with ANIMAL EMBASSY Saturday April 15 at 11am Mia and her *abuela* have so many interesting stories they want to share with one another. But learning a new language can be a challenge. Maybe their new pet Mango, a talking parrot can help them communicate a little better. Animal Embassy will help us celebrate our OCOS book for young readers and show us parrots and birds from around the world and talk about the different ways they communicate. Just like people, these birds have lots of things that make them the same and also many great things that make them unique.

MUSIC TOGETHER Tuesday April 18 at 6:15pm Family music is an experience shared worldwide and across cultures. Caregivers and children ages 0-5 are invited to share music, instruments and movement together. Children of all abilities are welcome. **Space is limited. Registration is required and begins Monday April 3.**

NO-COOK KIDS’ COOKING CLASS with SHOP-RITE OF MILFORD Monday April 24 at 6:30pm. No stove? No problem! Make some yummy food from around the globe with Shop-Rite’s retail

dietician. Healthy food can be fun to make! **Space is limited. Registration is required and begins Monday April 3.**



The Junior Women's Club of Milford

Presents



"Touch A Truck"

June 4

11AM - 3PM

Eisenhower Park

\$5.00 per person

Under 2 free

RAIN OR SHINE

KIDS COUNT OF MILFORD

Peggy Kelly, Executive Director

April 2017

SAVE THE DATE

Harborlight Happening

Kids Count's Annual fundraiser to support the

Susan Henchman Pavelko Preschool Scholarship Fund

is scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2017 at the Milford Yacht Club from 6:00 to 9:30.

Tickets are \$55.00 per person.

The event includes: cocktails, dinner, silent and live auction, raffles and 50/50.

If you would like to attend Harborlight Happening please email pkelly@milforded.org

Kids Count invited Mrs. Kathleen Munroe and her third grade students from the Mathewson School to participate in the Legislative Breakfast. The students delighted those present by singing *The Milford Song* and *Marvelous Milford*. They were prepared for the performance by Ms. Michelle D'Aiuto, the Mathewson School Music teacher.





The Milford Delegation at the Kids Count of Milford Legislative Breakfast on March 29, 2017.
 Pictured above, left to right, Gary Johnson, President, United Way of Milford
 Representative Pam Staneski, Peggy Kelly, Senator Gayle Slossberg, Representative Charles Ferraro
 (not pictured: Representative Kim Rose)
 Pictured below, Kids Count of Milford, Inc. Board Members





The Milford Salvation Army Service recognized the efforts of students from the Jonathan Law, Joseph A. Foran and Platt Technical High Schools who collected over \$8,000 in donations while standing outside local Milford stores from Thanksgiving to Christmas by presenting them with Certificates of Appreciation. Pictured below: Representatives from the Hartford office of the Salvation Army and members of the Milford Salvation Army were present to acknowledge and thank the students for their efforts to support Milford families.





At Kids Count of Milford's Legislative Breakfast Mayor Benjamin Blake proclaimed Wednesday, March 29, 2017, Susan Henchman Pavelko Day in Milford in acknowledgement of Sue's life long commitment to early education. Pictured above are Sue's children: David Pavelko and Amy Pavelko-Donegan and Mayor Blake. Kids Count presented the Champion of Young Children Award in Loving Memory of Sue. Below are family and friends who attended to honor their beloved Sue.

