

MILFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Infant and Toddler Times

JUDY LOBDELL, EDITOR

February 2018

Dates to
Remember

February

14th. *Happy
Valentines
Day*

19th.- 20th. *Winter
Break. Center Break.*

March

1st. *Parent Seminar.*
*Topic: Children's
Dental Health*
10:45-11:30 AM
Guest Speaker:
Elaine Colangelo
Dental Hygienist
Call or email to sign up.

15th. *Parent Seminar.*
Topic: Toilet Learning
10:45 - 11:30 AM

*February is
National
Children's Dental
Health Month*



*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*



Growing Love



Often parents are looking for creative ways to say those three little magic words, "I love you" to their children. Of course we love our children every day, but showing that love may take a little extra time to express.

Here are some simple, yet powerful ways to reinforce these feelings.

- Say, "I love you."
- Take a bike ride or walk together.
- Hug your child.
- Say something like, "It's great being with you."
- Work on a craft together: sculpt with clay or play dough, paint or draw.
- Give your child a back-rub.
- Say, "I'm sure glad I know you."
- Go to the library, and look for books to read together.
- Enjoy the wonders of nature all year round. Help children to relate personally. {"Just like you are special and unique, there are no two snowflakes alike"}. Bring some snow in; let it melt, then freeze it again. Plant bulbs indoors in the winter, observe their growth. Find a spot in your home to chart your child's growth.

Authors, Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish, point out that it is important to keep the child's interest in mind when planning activities. Discover what those needs and interests are by asking questions and observing. Knowing your child is an important element of effective parenting. If your child is physically active, then a walk or game of catch may say "I love you" better than words or a craft, for example. But, if your child is touchy-feely, he may enjoy a hug or a backrub more.

Remember also to provide opportunities for children to give, as well as, receive love. Sending notes to friends and family, baking goodies, drawing a picture of someone are simple and fun activities. Don't forget that romantic date with your spouse, either. Children need to see their parents caring for each other, as well. Your encouragement and example provide inspiration for children to grow on.



Did you know that when you shop at smile.amazon.com by choosing a charity, such as 12345 Kids Count of Milford Inc, your purchases can generate a donation by Amazon of 0.5% to the organization? There is no cost to the purchaser (but of course it is not tax deductible) and is a convenient way to help your favorite organization bring some smiles to your local community. So when you are shopping on Amazon remember to put smile.amazon.com into the url and choose a charity.





www.nea.org/readacross



Celebrate Read Across America

March 2, 2018

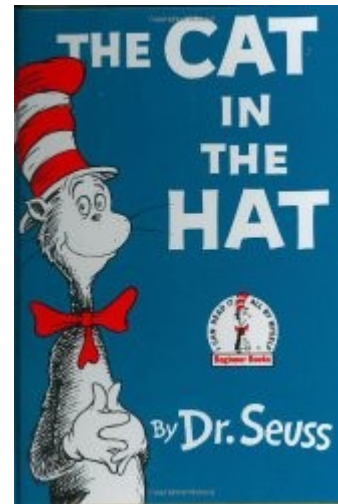
Grab your hat and read with the cat". The National Education Association (NEA) "calls for all children to be reading in the company of a caring adult". You can visit their website at www.nea.org/readacross/ for more information.

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."*



Celebrate NAEYC's Week of the Young Child™

April 16-20th, 2018

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>



***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*

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

Thank you to our generous donors:

The Oyster Festival Committee contributed at total of
\$19,100 to local Milford Non Profits.

The Milford Bank Foundation awarded funds to the
Milford Family Resource Center and Kids Count.



**Kids Count of Milford and the School Readiness Council
announce the following:**

The Office of Early Childhood, the City of Milford, Milford Public Schools and the School Readiness Council has school readiness slots that will be administered by the Office of Early Childhood School Readiness Program. Therefore, programs in Milford and surrounding communities who are eligible may apply to the Milford School Readiness Council. Criteria includes: Accreditation—All programs must be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children or become accredited within 3 years of the month this site began serving children. Teacher Education Requirement—Any program accepting state funds from the School Readiness Grant must have lead teaching staff who hold a bachelors' degree with an early childhood concentration. License—Each program site must hold a current license from the Department of Public Health. Programs requesting consideration by the Milford School Readiness Council are encouraged to contact Lesley Darling, the School Readiness Liaison, at 203-783-3383 or ldarling@ci.milford.ct.us no later than March 15, 2018.

City of Milford School Readiness Grant – Quality Enhancement Program.

The Quality Enhancement Program Local Request for Proposal is available for the July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019 fiscal year. The purpose of the Quality Enhancement Grant is to provide funding for programs that focus on education and early care that address quality standards and or expand comprehensive services for children and families. The Milford School Readiness Council requests proposals from qualified individuals or agencies to implement training on the use of the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (CT ELDS). Qualified individuals must have expertise with the CT ELDS, as well as demonstrating previous training engagements in the CT ELDS. Interested applicants are encouraged to call the School Readiness Director, Peggy Kelly, at 203-783-3627 or pkelly@milforded.org by March 16, 2018. Local Requests for Proposals must be submitted electronically and are due on March 16, 2018.

The Milford School Readiness Council retains the right to reject any or all bids.